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Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Issues Statement on Israeli Raids in Gaza

LD0210191593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has issued the following statement:

For the second time in five days, units from the Israeli Army have raided Palestinian civilians, attacking and destroying their homes with missiles under the pretext of searching for men on the run. This morning, 2 October, units from the Israeli Army carried out mad raids on the Gaza areas of Sabrah and 'Aqalan and besieged and stormed the town of Khan Yunus, using all sorts of individual weapons and missiles. These irresponsible operations by Israeli Army units have been going on since this morning, while the same thing happened a few days ago in Qabatiyah, north of the West Bank.

These irresponsible operations are a violation of the agreement signed in Washington last 13 September and an attempt by officials in those Israeli Army units, and those behind them, to destroy the peace process.

We call on the international community and on the two sponsors of the peace conference to promptly act to stop this and similar operations on the part of Israel, as a was compatible with the spirit of the peace process and the concluded agreements.

Abu-Sharif: IDF Operation 'Breach of Agreement'

FBIS100730693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] The PLO says the Israel Army operation yesterday was a breach of its peace agreement with Israel. But on the phone from Tunis, PLO official Bassam Abu-Sharif told Steve Linde that the Army's action would not sabotage future peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Sharif] Well, the PLO issued a statement in Tunis calling the violence used by the Israeli Army against Palestinians a breach of the agreement. There is a call on the Israeli Government to stop all such activities because such activities create negative atmosphere.

[Linde] Israeli leaders have said this is not a breach of an agreement and they did not agree to such a move.

[Abu-Sharif] Well, stopping violence on all fronts was an agreement, and we call this violence against Palestinians.

[Linde] Was it a verbal agreement or was it written down?

[Abu-Sharif] A statement was issued by President 'Arafat during the Knesset meeting asking to stop all violent activities. This is on our side, and the Israeli Government can control things directly and should stop violence from the Israeli side. We have decided to go ahead, continue negotiations. I mean, the declaration of principles that was signed is a first step, and I think that the will on both sides is there for continuing in order to reach a comprehensive peace.

[Linde] So one final question. Then the Israeli Army action has not sabotaged peace between Israel and the PLO?

[Abu-Sharif] Nobody said that. We are not saying sabotage. We are saying that this is a breach of the agreement. [end recording]

Al-Tibi Discusses Implications of IDF Operation

FBIS100725693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, "special adviser" to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, on the radio's Jerusalem studio by 'Ali Ta'imar on the "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Text] [Ta'imar] Good day to you, Dr. al-Tibi. Do you not think that you exaggerate in your strong reaction to the capture of the Black Panther members operating in the Jenin area?

[Al-Tibi] Not at all. Look, a historic agreement between the Israeli Government and the PLO was signed on 13 September. The post-agreement conduct by both sides is supposed to be different today. We find ourselves in a new era, with new understandings and a new atmosphere. The PLO leader ordered members of the Black Panthers and the Fatah Hawks in the occupied territories to hold their fire. They accepted and publicly announced this. It is very strange that after this positive compliance by these youths—and I am not disregarding the past—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] carried out this initiated operation of detaining these people who were slated to move to Jericho and Gaza within two months.

[Ta'imar] You know Dr. al-Tibi, had you not sounded so serious, I would have thought you were laughing at us. After all, these men are murderers of both Jews and Arabs. Do you expect such people to continue to walk free and commit murders as they please?

[Al-Tibi] Had I not known that you are a wise man, I would have been surprised by the style of your question. Let me remind you that when a peace treaty was signed with Egyptian President al-Sadat, this followed the death of a very large number of Jewish soldiers, thousands of soldiers, who were killed in the war. An agreement was signed ...

[Ta'imar, interrupting] Still, Dr. al-Tibi, reference here is to cold-blooded murderers of both Jews and Arabs.

[Al-Tibi] An agreement was signed and a difficult period was left behind. Those who want to make an account of blood now, after a new page has been turned, let them continue to live in the past ...

[Talmor, interrupting] Still, there is no account of blood here. The desire is simply to bring them to trial, according to law and justice, according to any possible criteria.

[Al-Tibi] I call it a blood account, and I am sorry that people are seized by past incidents and do not look forward to the future. The Palestinian leadership, as well as the Israeli Government, offered and adopted a courageous initiative for a new future. How did the prime minister put this?—Let the sun shine. So, let the sun shine, and let us abandon everything which happened in the past. Difficult things took place between the two sides in the past. Somebody could now come from the other [Palestinian] side and say that the hands of a certain commander, a Y colonel in X sector, are stained with Palestinian blood, and let us take our revenge on him.

[Talmor] Dr. al-Tibi, how can you, for example, know that those people who have acted in the past and murdered according to their viewpoints and opinions, and not at Tunis' instructions—I believe that such instructions were not necessarily given—will not hurt you when the autonomy is established, that current IDF actions may not benefit you ultimately?

[Al-Tibi] I am thankful for the future protection, but we are not seeking such protection. I am saying that a direct, personal order was issued by chairman 'Arafat to the people in the area, and they accepted this order. It is not necessary to offer various speculations on the future. This is an internal Palestinian matter, I imagine, I am almost certain, that the Palestinian leadership will be able to cope with every obstacle in this sphere.

[Talmor] Does this erase all of their past murders? Is this what you call law and justice?

[Al-Tibi] We are returning to the blood account. It is a pity you are falling into this style of argument. As you well know, about 1,000 Palestinians were killed by IDF forces. Do you want us to engage anew in such an account of blood? I am offering a new page.

[Talmor] If this is the case, I would like to ask you something else. Is it possible that your strong reaction, as expressed by you in the Israeli media, does not stem, in fact, from the reports or rumors in the territories that this act of capturing the Black Panther members in the Janin area was carried out with Yasir 'Arafat's consent?

[Al-Tibi] This is pure baloney and it is a pity you are repeating it on IDF Radio. It is a pity we are airing this. This was a mistaken decision by the person who made that decision, and the Palestinian leadership views it as a blow to the understandings, to the spirit of the agreement. We regret it.

[Talmor] You spoke about this with Shim'on Peres on the phone, right?

[Al-Tibi] Right.

[Talmor] How did he react to the protest which you lodged with him?

[Al-Tibi] I prefer not to discuss this personal talk I held with the foreign minister.

[Talmor] Still, we heard the chief of staff's reaction. We also heard political elements in Jerusalem, and they all reject your claims outright, stating that this does not contradict the spirit of the Israel-PLO agreement.

[Al-Tibi] Well, there are disagreements between the two sides on this specific point then.

[Talmor] What will happen in the future when Palestinian terrorists in the territories hurt Jews? According to this agreement and your outlook, will we be unable to capture them then either?

[Al-Tibi] We want to have a brighter future of economic and other cooperation. The internal security in the areas which will be evacuated by the IDF will be under the control of a strong Palestinian police and the Palestinian security forces. During the interim period external security will remain in the hands of the Israeli Army forces, and I imagine that any difficulty which will crop up during this period will be resolved.

[Talmor] Can you promise us that the Palestinian police will act according to Israel's outlook and capture murderers or other Palestinians who hurt Jews?

[Al-Tibi] I cannot personally promise anything about the future. The same holds true for the Israeli Government. I do not think the Israeli Government can guarantee anything in the future. Still, this agreement can succeed only if there is cooperation and a new atmosphere between the two entities. According to what is written in the agreement, there will be cooperation in all spheres, and I hope that this cooperation will lead to a resolution of the difficult issues and the difficulties which will crop up in the area.

[Talmor] Well, the action was carried out, members of the Janin area Black Panther squad were captured, and according to 'Arafat's decision, so I hear, it was decided to immediately stop the recruitment of Palestinian police members, as well as all ceremonies and celebrations on the occasion of peace. What else are you planning in the wake of this capture?

[Al-Tibi] Look, protest was lodged in diplomatic channels and a general strike was staged in the occupied territories. The Palestinian leadership is continuing to study the implications of this decision, and contacts are being held with the Israeli Government as well as other elements overseas about a solution to this problem and other problems which may result from it.

[Talmor] In other words, you demand that the IDF, the Shin Bet, and the other Israeli security elements simply stop capturing wanted people.

[Al-Tibi] We are saying that the post-agreement atmosphere and conduct should be different from the pre-agreement ones. The chief of staff spoke about a period of two weeks until the start of negotiations on 13 October.

that until then wanted people will still be captured. We do not want to argue over one period or another, but it is our demand that behavior should have been different since the signing of the agreement on 13 September.

[Talmor] Dr. al-Tibi, when Yasir 'Arafat says that a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, will be set up within three years—is this 'Arafat's wishful thinking, or clear knowledge that that is what will happen at the end of the process?

[Al-Tibi] The establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West bank and the Gaza Strip, with East jerusalem as its capital, alongside the State of Israel, is a legitimate Palestinian demand. This demand will arise in the deliberations over the permanent solution.

[Talmor] In other words, nobody, at least not the Israeli side, gave 'Arafat a promise on this matter.

[Al-Tibi] We believe that the process that has taken place to date will naturally culminate in a Palestinian state. We hope this will be the case indeed.

[Talmor] Some here see Jericho not as a springboard to Jerusalem, but to Amman and to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Jordan, under the PLO leadership. Is this how matters are viewed in Tunis as well?

[al-Tibi] Not at all. This is a figment of the imagination of those who think so. The independent Palestinian state will be set up in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

[Talmor] You are saying that Jordan is outside this picture then.

[Al-Tibi] Jordan is a sovereign state, and its sovereignty should not be harmed.

[Talmor] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, special adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, thank you for coming to our Jerusalem studio, and have a good Sabbath.

[Al-Tibi] A good Sabbath and a happy holiday.

Structure of Future Negotiating Committees Finalized

JN0410103993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Oct 93 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian leadership, meeting in Tunis since last Tuesday [28 September], has finalized the structure of the negotiating committees and the committees that will take over power from the Israelis after their withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

In a telephone interview from Tunis with AL-RA'Y, PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab said: We have drawn up the broad outlines for the approaches and missions of the next stage after the signing of the declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel.

Al-Najjab said 10 negotiating committees have been formed. These are: The withdrawal committee, the economic committee, the elections committee, the security and police committees, the bridge control committee, the displaced persons committee, the Gaza-Jericho safe passage committee, the waters committee, and the economic cooperation committee. [passage omitted]

Development Commission Established

JN0210215593 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] During its session, which has been going on in Tunis since Wednesday [29 Sep] under brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Palestinian leadership set up a preparatory committee charged with drafting recommendations on the measures related to the transfer of powers in the Palestinian occupied territories.

The Palestinian news agency WAFA reported that these recommendations, which will also include a mechanism for future Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, will be presented to the PLO Central Council session scheduled to be held on 10 October in Tunis. This provisional committee comprises, among others, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Ghassan al-Khatib, and Nabil Qassis.

WAFA added that the Palestinian leadership meetings, which were attended by members of the Palestinian negotiating team, discussed the new composition of the negotiating team and the setting up of specialized subcommittees to deal with the various aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The Palestinian leadership also decided to set up a commission charged with reconstruction and development that will administer international aid to finance the application of transitional Palestinian self-rule. The commission will be based in the occupied territories.

Abu-Sharif on Takeover Preparations, Contributions

NC0410084893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, as a Palestinian citizen and official how do you view the nomination of President Mubarak for a third term? During his past terms many achievements were made on the Arab level.

[Abu-Sharif] President Husni Mubarak has contributed a great deal to the Palestinian people and their struggle. As a symbol of Egypt, he played a major role in advancing the

entire peace process so that the Palestinian people could attain their inalienable rights to self-determination, repatriation, and national independence. We support President Husni Mubarak just as he supported us as a representative and symbol of great Egypt.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about current Palestinian moves after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles?

[Abu-Sharif] The signing of the declaration of principles is a first step on a long and tough road toward the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. We are proceeding in accordance with the agreement, and we hope that the Israelis also will meet their obligations. There have been violent acts over the past few days, with the occupied Israeli forces perpetrating violence against Palestinians and killing a number of people. We hope the Israeli Government will stop these operations so that they will not create a negative climate. We are engaged in continuous work to build the necessary frameworks that will assume authority in Gaza and Jericho, and we are trying to collect the necessary funds to rebuild the infrastructure destroyed by the Israeli occupation forces.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Have you lodged a protest with the Israeli Government over the Israeli aggressive actions and violations in Gaza?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO Executive Committee has announced that the acts of the Israeli forces violate the agreement. Contacts are underway to end these violations.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, what are the most important topics you have discussed in the current PLO Executive Committee meetings in Tunis? Have you outlined the shape of the upcoming Palestinian self-government?

[Abu-Sharif] The Executive Committee is in continuous session in preparation for the takeover in the next few weeks. We are making the final arrangements for the specialized committees that will take over authority in Gaza and Jericho. The Executive Committee is also discussing all international pledges to finance the rebuilding of the infrastructure and the establishment of a reconstruction council, which will be responsible for reconstructing the areas from which Israel will withdraw. The Executive Committee is also following all Palestinian, regional, and international political developments. President Yasir 'Arafat is also closely watching all international contacts involving the PLO to build a firm future toward a comprehensive peace.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, are you actually ready now to assume power in Gaza and Jericho?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO has made all relevant preparations—security forces and police—and is setting up all necessary bodies. God willing, after these bodies and the security forces take over power, President 'Arafat himself and his companions will leave for Jericho and Gaza to stabilize the situation and begin reconstruction projects.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, now that 47 states and international institutions have agreed to provide financial support to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement are there any specific obstacles you think you will face in the next stage?

[Abu-Sharif] Honestly, Ashraf, we were shocked by the decision of the countries that met in Washington. The funds allocated so far are not enough for us to make the right beginning. The areas from which Israel will withdraw have witnessed a methodological destruction of their infrastructure for 25 years. We are starting from zero. Although President 'Arafat has repeatedly stressed that $6 or $7 billion is the minimum needed for the first stage, the allocated funds are less than one-third of that figure. However, we are continuing our political efforts to assess the real needs of those areas, which lack everything, such as agricultural, industrial, educational, medical, and other infrastructures. We hope President Yasir 'Arafat's upcoming visit to some European countries will secure sufficient support to launch this project, which is necessary for the Palestinian people to taste peace.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much. You are always welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you, Ashraf.

Sha'th on Outcome of Donor States' Meeting

NC0110080793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and member of the delegation to the international economic conference on extending grants to the Palestinians, in Washington by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; carried in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, good morning and welcome to Voice of the Arabs radio.

[Sha'th] Good morning.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Nabil, do you believe that the international economic conference of the donor countries has fulfilled the needs of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories which will come under self-government, particularly as the conference spoke about a $2 billion spread over two years?

[Sha'th] From the political aspect, the conference was undoubtedly an important step for support for the Palestinian people and the peace process, which will restore to the Palestinian people its rights on its occupied Palestinian territory, achieve Israeli withdrawal, and hand over authority to the PLO in the occupied Palestinian territory. From this angle, the conference—which was held at the invitation of the United States and attended by 43 countries and the specific pledges made

during it—represents a backing for the Palestinian people. The specified amount, the $2 billion, is not clear. Most of the countries have set five years and not two years for this amount. Japan has set two years. Other countries, such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have set one year for their aid. Parts of this amount represent loans, some of it grants, and other parts represent assistance in kind to be given to the Palestinian people. Some of this money represents funds previously allocated to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and some other parts of these funds are new amounts. At any rate, $600 million will be allocated for the first year. This amount is specified for quick and urgent support and backing for Palestinian economic development; that is, the building of facilities and the infrastructure. This is a good amount but it should not include the necessary funds for setting up the Palestinian authority. We know that Israel is levying between $500 and $600 million a year in taxes from the Palestinian people.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will this continue?

[Sha'th] Israel will continue to levy these taxes at least for the first year and this requires us to set up a complete tax system so that it can levy them.

[Abu-al-Majd] Has the Palestinian delegation presented specific and clear studies to the conference about your needs? What was the response to these studies?

[Sha'th] The study presented by the World Bank was naturally the one adopted by the conference, even though the World Bank admitted that it was not enough. The Bank estimated $3 billion for the next five years but this did not take into account setting up the Palestinian authority, the return of between 500,000 and 800,000 Palestinian refugees, or the necessary investments for the productive economic sectors. The World Bank's estimates did not include all these investments. The Palestinian estimate is $11 billion spread over seven years. We will need around $1.5 billion a year. Hence, the promised funds are going to be less than half the sum set out in the Palestinian study.

Anyhow, we undoubtedly appreciate every country that has contributed and donated. One can only thank those who have expressed their willingness to help. But we believe that the international community, and Israel too, are responsible for compensating the Palestinian people for their many years of suffering from occupation, repression, and harsh economic conditions that have reached the level of famine in the Gaza Strip. We want enough support to enable us to stand on our feet and to bolster the peace process in the future.

[Abu-al-Majd] How do you see Egypt's role in this particular phase?

[Sha'th] The conference formed a coordinating committee that originally included only the donor states. However, we said: How could a coordinating committee of the donor states not take into consideration the Palestinian entity that will be the recipient of this aid and that is supposed to set the priorities for you? We also told them: How could this committee exclude the basic roles that Egypt and Jordan should play? Egypt and Jordan are two brotherly and neighboring countries with whom the Palestinian people's interests are closely linked. Therefore, the conference agreed to include Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine in this committee.

We perceive an important Egyptian role in all phases of the work to achieve peace and establish an independent Palestinian entity. Important relations on the strategic, political, and economic levels will link Egypt with Palestine. We believe that the Palestinian entity should not remain under the control of the Israeli economy as the situation is now under the occupation. It must stretch bridges to Egypt and Jordan first, and to the other Arab countries second, because this represents the Palestinian and Arab economic interest in the next phases. Egypt has contributed to the establishment of this Palestinian entity in times of war and peace. We want it to be on our side on the economic, political, and other levels in the upcoming phase.

[Abu-al-Majd] Certainly, you are in Washington not only to attend this conference but also to prepare for other phases of talks with the Israeli and U.S. sides. This is in order to complete the process of building the Palestinian entity and bring about formal U.S. recognition of the PLO. How much progress have you made in these spheres?

[Sha'th] Several meetings have been held with the U.S. side to normalize U.S.-Palestinian relations and consequently build correct relations, establish real PLO diplomatic representation in the United States, and to agree on the next phases of negotiations. These negotiations could take place in Washington or in al-'Arish in Egypt. For instance, there is a proposal to hold the talks on the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in al-'Arish. These talks should begin on 14 October.

Generally speaking, I believe the meetings with the U.S. side have been positive, drawing up the necessary steps to continue the talks and to normalize U.S.-Palestinian relations in all their aspects. This will greatly help accelerate the peace process in the next phase.

'Arafat: Occupied Territories Need $5 Billion

JN0210194493 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday, Friday, met with Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs. They discussed the latest arrangements to execute the first phase of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Following the meeting, brother President Abu-'Ammar stated that the $2 billion the states meeting in Washington pledged in aid for the occupied territories is not

enough. He said the Palestinians will need $5 billion at least, most of which will be spent on rebuilding infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.

Douglas Hogg said Britain will invite brother President Abu-'Ammar to visit London. He said Britain is interested in establishing new, stronger ties with the PLO. Hogg added that Britain strongly supports the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and will endeavor to strengthen it.

Basic Framework of Economic Links With Jordan Viewed

JN0310135793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 93 pp 1,4

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed on a basic framework for cooperation which would guide Palestinian negotiations with Israel in the implementation of the economic aspects of the Israel-PLO autonomy accord and beyond, informed sources said Saturday [2 October].

Broad details of the Jordan-PLO agreement, which were made available to the JORDAN TIMES, indicate that the two banks of the River Jordan will be partners in a new arrangement that envisages economic integration.

The accord falls in line with public statements made by PLO officials and Palestinian economic planners that the Palestinian entity envisaged under the Israel-PLO agreement would seek to disengage itself from the confines of the economy of the Jewish state and link up with the Arab economies of the region, particularly Jordan.

Ahmad Quray' (Abu-al-'Ala'), head of the economic department of the PLO who led the Palestinian side in the secret negotiations with Israel in Oslo, would not confirm or deny that the PLO and Jordan had concluded an economic cooperation agreement.

But he outlined in an interview with the Jordan Times certain basic points of the Palestinian approach to economic development and cooperation with Jordan.

He said the Palestinians would not set up their own central bank during the interim period, but preparations would start for opening a "central Palestinian institution" during that period. In the meantime, he said, Palestinians would use the Jordanian dinar as the official currency, and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) would monitor and regulate the monitory policies and money movement. The CBJ would issue permits to open branches of Jordanian banks inside the occupied territories, as well as Palestinian and Arab banks. It would also guarantee the free movement of money and regulate foreign currency reserves. Mr. Quray' said there will be free trade between Jordan and Palestine, whereby Jordan can export goods to the Palestinians worth $150 million during the first two years, and vice versa. This ceiling would double in the third year.

Jordanian officials said earlier they would strive for free trade with the occupied territories during the interim period, and would refuse Israeli imposition of tariffs on Jordanian goods entering the Palestinian market.

"This would have to be negotiated with the Israelis, bearing in mind that neither the Palestinians nor Jordan accept restrictions on their trade between the Jordanian and Palestinian markets," one PLO official said.

The official said a free zone area would be set up in the Jordan Valley in addition to gurantees for the free two-way movement of labour and transit of goods and the setting up of storage houses in the Jordan Valley for goods shipped between Palestine and Jordan.

He added that the Jordanian public and private sectors would assist Palestinians in building their infrastructure.

"The crossing points between the two banks will be expanded and probably new ones will be opened," he said. Other fields of cooperation include tourism, joint ventures, etc.

Mr. Quray' said that in economics, "we know of no totally independent economy that exists, but we hope to achieve a strong viable independent Palestinian economy, and we have the necessary qualifications."

He said Palestinian requirements for a strong economy are at least $12 billion in seven years—twice what the World Bank has estimated.

"With sufficient funds and if Palestinians follow a proper economic restructuring process, Palestinians can achieve an independent, strong economy in two years," Mr. Quray' said.

He said that overall investments required to achieve an independent national economy were estimated at $11.6 billion for seven years in 1991 prices, and over $13 billion in 1994 prices.

These estimates were proposed in the 500-page seven-year Palestinian Development Plan prepared three-and-a-half years ago by Mr. Quray's Tunis-based department in coordination with 61 economic experts from the occupied territories and 25 Palestinian and Arab experts such as Dr. Jawad al-'Anani and Dr. Tahir Kan'an.

The purpose of the plan was to counter arguments in the early 80s which said that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state would not be economically viable.

Mr. Quray' said the World Bank, the European Community and other international agencies approved the Palestinian plan as a guideline for future development projects to be set up in the occupied territories.

The PLO participated in a U.S.-sponsored global meeting in Washington on Friday to raise funds for the PLO-Israel peace plan. The World Bank said the Palestinians would need $500 million to $550 million a year over the next five years for a total of $2.5 billion or more.

This estimate was based on economic priorities mentioned in the Palestinian plan.

"We need $6 billion in three years and $2 billion/year for a period of seven years before we can have a strong independent economy," said Samir 'Abdallah, a member of the Palestinian peace team and a renowned economist, said.

He said that Palestinians estimated their needs by at least $2 billion each year to enable them to reach the economic standards of other states in the Middle East region within a period of five to seven years.

Mr. Quray' said the World Bank's estimate, which is the guideline for the U.S.-sponsored fund-raising effort, "was short of our estimated needs, and not sufficient to build the damaged economy of the occupied territories which has suffered total dependence on Israel and was tailored to benefit the occupation's economic needs for the past 26 years."

Mr. Quray' said the Oslo accord's economic annexes allow Palestinians to gradually build an independent economy.

"The accord's annexes stress the independence of the Palestinian economy ... economic cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian economies is an Israeli admission to the principle of cooperation with an independent Palestinian entity," Mr. Quray' said.

He added that according to the agreement, Israel has recognised the Palestinian economic rights such as equal utilisation of water, "but the process of achieving our full rights will be gradual."

Our water rights are 850 million cubic metres of which we are allowed to use only 120 million cubic metres. Our share will be gradually increased until we achieve our full water share rights," he said. "This does not obstruct our right to build our independent economy."

He said Palestinian priorities for building this economy are the restructuring of the existing infrastructure which was set up to serve the Israeli occupation's economic needs and linking the Palestinian economy to that of Israel. The standard of living in the occupied territories is one tenth of that in Israel.

Palestinian per capita income is $1000 in Gaza Strip and $1400 in the West Bank, while it reached $10,600-$12,000 in Israel. The Palestinian economy makes up less than five per cent of the Israeli economy.

Mr. Quray' said among the Palestinians' priorities is the immediate setting up of the Palestinian economic and national institutions to efficiently administer the economy.

"These institutions should be free from any bureaucratic measures and should be dynamic in order to activate the palestinian economy and its structures towards development and growth," he said.

Another pressing priority is the setting up of public and private sector projects that would absorb thousands of Palestinian workers and unemployed labour. Fifty per cent of the Palestinian labour force is unemployed, he said, adding that Palestinians will strive for a free economy which will depend on transparency and strict auditing in order to avoid corruption which would severely ruin any existing or emerging economy.

Taking into account some international donors' objections to contributing funds directly to the PLO, Mr. Quray' said: "Palestinians will not be receiving cash funds to build their economy; instead foreign aid will go to infrastructure projects, supervised by the Palestinians."

"We don't need cash monies, we need projects," he said.

Mr. Quray' said the European Community and the U.S. were in disagreement over the mechanism by which major donors can coordinate donations with both the Israelis and Palestinians as well as with the World Bank.

"Whatever mechanism is set up by the World Bank, Palestinians should have an active role and in its mandate," he said.

He said the PLO had set up an emergency authority which will supervise and coordinate development projects in the occupied territories with international donors. This Palestinian Emergency Development and Restructuring Authority (PEDRA) would be based in the occupied territories, he said.

"PEDRA will become the World Bank's partner in supervising projects," he said. "It will determine the kind of projects the occupied territories need, and any international agency or company that will implement a project will have to be subcontracted with PEDRA because Palestinians intend to employ their own workers and to benefit from the technology in use."

He warned international donors against bureaucratic restrictions and delays in channelling funds to the occupied territories because "seriously damaged conditions in these areas cannot afford any delays."

The PLO official said only qualified Palestinians and experts in all fields of life would be involved in the process of establishing and building the Palestinian institutions and interim government bodies in the occupied territories in order to ensure its success and continuation. "We will not have people running the show because of their contacts or past," he said, warning that the process of disengaging the closely intertwined Palestinian economy from that of Israel would be a difficult and gradual process.

Israel's acceptance to sign the PLO-Israel accord, from his point of view, was to prevent the sudden and forceful untying of these links by Palestinians.

"The Palestinian market is the second most important market for Israel after the U.S., and the process of

wresting the Palestinian economy out of Israel's hands is a painful one; therefore it will be gradual," he said.

He said the PLO considers Jordan, in this process, "the Palestinians' basic partner, and an agreement with Jordan on economic cooperation is a must."

PLO's Quray' Denies Plan To Attend Jerusalem Meeting

NC0310201993 Paris AFP in English 1958 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, Oct 3 (AFP)—PLO economic chief Abu-al-'Ala' on Sunday [3 October] categorically denied that he was planning to attend a business conference in Jerusalem at the end of the month.

An Israeli government spokesman earlier that Abu-al-'Ala', whose real name is Ahmad Quray', will become the first senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official to visit Israel on October 30.

"This information is totally without foundations," Abu-al-'Ala' told AFP, adding that Israel had to pull out from the occupied territories before he could plan a visit to Jerusalem.

The Israeli spokesman said that the 55-year-old director-general of the PLO economics department based in Tunis will participate in the three-day Jerusalem Business Conference 1993.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin authorized the trip for a business conference following the autonomy agreement which Abu-al-'Ala' negotiated secretly for the PLO with Israel in Norway, Rabin's spokesman said.

"This is the most elegant way to bring to Israel one of the PLO leaders who took a direct role in and advanced the peace process," an Israeli government official told journalists.

Abu-al-'Ala', who was born in Jerusalem, is a member of the central committee of Fatah, the main PLO faction. He also coordinates the Palestinian delegations to the multilateral track of the Middle East peace talks.

Rabin will open the seminar, organized by the Israeli economic newspaper GLOBES with government support, on October 30.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will also speak on peace negotiations and President Ezer Weizman will close the meeting, which is expected to be attended by more than 1,500 business and political leaders from around the world.

'Abbas Urges Arabs To Postpone Links With Israel

LD0310174593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, yesterday urged Arab countries to put off establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. He said there are still important problems that must be resolved.

Editorials Reject Call To Lift Arab Boycott

NC0520113793

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem-based Palestinian newspapers published on 28, 29, and 30 September carry editorials opposing calls for ending the Arab boycott against Israel.

In an approximately 800-word editorial on pages 3 and 7, Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic on 28 September notes that "Israel, backed by the United States, began pressuring Arab countries to lift the Arab boycott and normalize relations with Israel." The paper comments: "Lifting the boycott and normalizing relations must be postponed until tangible progress has been made on the Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks and the implementation of the agreement between the Palestinians and Israel has begun." The paper adds: "We are not against normalization, recognition, diplomatic exchange, and lifting the economic boycott. But is it not our right to demand first that Israel implement international resolutions and accept the ending of the occupation and withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories? Then there will be no need for all those measures, which are the only cards remaining for the Arabs to pressure Israel into accepting international legitimacy."

In an approximately 1,900-word editorial on page 9, Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic says in its 29 September issue that as far as the Palestinians and Arabs are concerned, the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement does not mean that the Palestine question has been resolved: "The occupation is still there; the Palestinian people are still far from assuming control and sovereignty, and there still is no agreement on important issues like settlements, Jerusalem, and refugees."

The paper adds: "When the Palestinians and Arabs become convinced that they are really in control, that the Palestinian capabilities are back in Palestinian hands, and that the international resolutions on the Syrian Golan, southern Lebanon, and Jordan's Wadi 'Arabah have been implemented, the problem of the Arab boycott will be solved within the framework of the just and comprehensive peace, which everyone is hoping for."

In its approximately 800-word editorial on pages 1 and 11, the communist newspaper AL-ITTIHAD on 30 September notes that Israel's Rabin and Peres are in a hurry to end the state of war and the Arab boycott of Israel. It comments: "There is no need to hurry, as Rabin wishes, before completing all the necessary steps on the Palestinian and Arab levels and before laying the necessary foundations that will enable the Palestinian people to continue their march toward independence." The paper concludes its editorial by saying: "Rabin's basic and conditions are aimed at stripping us of many weapons."

Opposition Factions To Hold Strategy Session 7 Oct

JN0310155693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Oct 93 p 25

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan, has said the 10 Palestinian factions opposing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will meet in Damascus on 7 October to discuss several political formulas in order to deal with the future, especially in the wake of the latest developments after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho First plan.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added: We are currently holding extensive contacts with various Palestinian forces to crystallize a concept. It is premature to define Hamas' final stand toward the proposed concepts. He said: I would like to say that the concept of new leadership is a topic of discussion by these factions. Some sides adopt this concept. Our stand, however, as the Hamas Movement, will be announced after the 10 factions' meeting.

The Palestinian factions opposing the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement have threatened to form an alternative PLO leadership to protest the agreement.

Nazzal added: Some sides advocate the idea of forming a large-scale national front that includes forces opposing the agreement. Other sides have reservations about this idea because it is an extension of previously declared formulas that failed, such as the rejectionist front, the [Palestinian] National Salvation Front, and other formulas.

Nazzal said: We are studying every formula. We are trying to consult Palestinian factions in order to reach a practical formula that will achieve the required objectives.

Answering a question, he said: Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration realizes that failing to give funds to the self-rule authority could put this authority in a direct confrontation with the Palestinian people. This is why it hastened to hold the donors' conference. Rich countries open their pockets for the agreement. In our view, this is bribing Palestinians to disavow their rights, land, and holy places.

He added: We believe many states attended the conference under U.S. pressure, not out of a desire to make this agreement succeed. This means that there is no guarantee that promises will be kept. The international enthusiasm we see now could vanish in the future.

Concerning the dialogue that will be held between Hamas and Fatah movements in Sanaa on 25 October, as Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said two days ago, Nazzal said: I was surprised by the announcement on the date of the meeting. I was also astonished that it was made by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who is not a Fatah or even a PLO leader. I can stress that the date for a meeting between the Hamas and Fatah movements has not yet been set. Moreover, we have not received a reply from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who was informed of our agreement on the meeting with the condition that neither Yasir 'Arafat nor Mahmud 'Abbas attend the meeting.

Nazzal said: It is not true that there is agreement to hold this meeting on 25 October. I do not know where Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi got this information. I think some Palestinian officials are trying to create a certain atmosphere in order to hide the continuing practical steps to implement the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

Nazzal expressed his belief that dialogue between Fatah and Hamas is futile under the current policy. He said: Our agreement to take part in a dialogue followed mediation by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. This was also meant to show the problem was not Fatah, but the leadership. According to our viewpoint, this leadership has bypassed the Palestinian people's rights.

Nazzal added: There is no agenda for dialogue, because there has been no agreement on a specific date. We see a meeting with Fatah as something that can pave the way for a national conference, which we intend to hold as soon as possible. Regarding the Fatah Central Committee's position on the agreement, he said: We expected some committee members to take firmer and more courageous positions. But, I must laud the positions of brothers 'Abbas Zaki and Muhammad Jihad, who showed praiseworthy courage and nationalism.

He said: Faruq Qaddumi's position in the PLO Executive Committee apparently indicated his opposition. We look with much doubt on this, however. Statements by Qaddumi increase our doubts about his true position.

Regarding the methods Hamas thinks can foil the agreement, Nazzal said: Hamas is against the agreement, and has unequivocally announced this opposition. This is a principled and real position. Hamas will do its best to foil this agreement, although we recognize that this agreement bears the seeds of its own failure and death, because it contains negative aspects and loopholes.

Nazzal reaffirmed that Hamas will not abide by this agreement, and will continue resistance by all means against occupation. He said: We believe the continuation of resistance is the practical translation of this opposition. We are confident the masses, some of whom supported the agreement, will eventually reverse their position, because citizens will discover today's promises are false.

He added: We are working in several ways to foil the agreement. The masses will discover the truth about it after the people realize that neither Jerusalem nor the refugees will return, and that only a small portion of the evacuees will return home. This, however, does not mean that Hamas will stand by idly. We will revive the jihad and the struggle in the souls of the Palestinian people by escalating the armed struggle, dealing painful blows to occupation, and chasing occupation targets wherever possible in Palestine.

PFLP, DFLP, Hamas To Participate in Elections

TA0310123893 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian rejectionist organizations have decided to participate in elections for the autonomy council. Our correspondent learned this from Palestinian sources who returned from Amman over the weekend. The sources said that during consultations in Amman and Damascus last week between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Fatah members who oppose the agreement, it was decided not to establish an organization to compete with the PLO, but to depose 'Arafat from within the PLO.

The sources also said there are great difficulties in contacts between the PFLP and the DFLP on the one hand, and Hamas on the other. The three organizations are unable to obtain financing for a joint framework.

Iran has rejected their appeal because it is unwilling to support Habash and Hawajimah, who are Christians. Iran is amazed that Hamas has formed an alliance with them. The three organizations tried to establish a joint body of 25 members to prepare two large-scale popular congresses, one in the territories and the other abroad, but they have failed to reach agreement and the lists prepared in the territories were not approved by the organizations' headquarters in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Suspect in Merbah Plot Said Special Forces Member

LD0210171993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Recent investigations by the security forces in the search for those responsible for assassinating former Prime Minister Mr. Kasdi Merbah still make headline news in the national press.

The investigations have led to the apprehension of some members of the terrorist network that masterminded and implemented the assassination of Mr. Kasdi Merbah and his four companions. There are 36 members of the network. The investigations revealed that the leader of the group is a former member of the special forces and a former member of the Bouyali [fundamentalist] group. An intensive search continues for him and five other members of the network that masterminded the operation from the Ain Taya Mosque, according to the confession of one of the group who carried out the assassination.

It is worth mentioning that the security forces' investigations—one of the largest operations—have resulted in the arrest of three of the nine individuals who took a direct part in the assassination of Mr. Kasdi Merbah and his companions.

As we wait to see what is revealed by the trial of those accused of serious acts of terrorism, the security forces have been displaying a determination to put an end to such deeds and to spread the rule of law. Their aim is to protect the security and property of citizens at a time when terrorist groups have chosen the method of sabotage and destruction aimed at the national economy. The terrorists are trying to strike the economic structure that Algeria has been trying to stabilize by constant efforts and in the face of a changing international economy which gives no chance to the weak ones. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister on Ties With World Bank, IMF

LD0110223693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Oct 93

["Exclusive interview" with Economy Minister Mourad Benachnou by unidentified correspondent in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Benachnou] In my capacity as an individual and member of the government, I believe Algeria has several factors that will enable a return to the path of rapid development. Some of these measures will be difficult, others will be easy, but in general these measures will have great merits for all Algerians. [passage omitted]

We can say that the World Bank has intervened greatly in financing the Algerian economy. Here let me remind you of one figure: The World Bank has loaned Algeria $4.4 billion. But the problem is not a problem of financing this time. We have major financing coming from the bank, but the problem is that of fulfillment. There are some bureaucratic obstacles—and I do not know the origin of these obstacles—that are preventing the timely pooling of these loans. This is a major problem. I have talked with World Bank officials regarding relations between Algeria and the establishment to find a solution inside Algeria....

[Correspondent, interrupting] What is the solution to these bureaucratic problems you are talking about?

[Benachnou] There is a solution inside Algeria, a solution at the level of some financial institutions, which should take the necessary measures to facilitate the financing of the economy and to facilitate the pooling of these funds made available by the World Bank. We should stress that the World Bank has always been on our side in these difficult circumstances. [passage omitted]

We can say that generally our relations with the IMF are very cordial. The public has a bad impression about the IMF, but this institution offers opinions and recommendations backed by financial aid. Even if there was no financial aid, we should listen to the IMF because it has great specialization in financial matters.

I spoke with IMF officials and experts about Algeria's economic and financial condition and particularly about the budget deficit, which plays a big role in inflation and value decline of Algerian currency. The outcome of strong relations with the IMF can only be beneficial. I had no authorization from the Algerian Government to negotiate with the IMF about any program. The talks were working talks and will not lead to any program with the IMF. [passage omitted]

Juppe States France's Support for Economic Reform

LD0110175893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri held talks with the French foreign minister and briefed him on the broad outlines of the current political and economic reforms in Algeria. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, for his part, voiced France's interest in the latest decisions made by the Algerian Government, especially the publication of a directory for investment and trade in Algeria and the talks being held with the IMF.

The French foreign minister assured his Algerian counterpart that his country will work to convince the European states of the need to give aid to Algeria to ensure the success of the economic reform program.

Palestinians Offered $10 Million Over 3 Years

LD0210194393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Mr. Nouredine Zerhouni, Algerian ambassador in the United States, yesterday said during a meeting of the

countries offering help to consolidate the peace process in the Middle East that Algeria's contribution is estimated at $10 million over the next three years, despite the difficult economic conditions through which Algeria is passing.

The Algerian ambassador in the United States said this help displays Algeria's willingness to shoulder its international responsibilities and to stand beside the Palestinian people and the PLO to help them set up their institutions and establish their completely sovereign independent state.

Egypt

Musa Returns From New York, Comments on Talks

NC0210163693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Returning from New York today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he was carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Musa said he will report to President Mubarak on his two-week visit to the United States and the talks he held with several foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

In the United States, Musa met U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Vice President Al Gore as well as the secretaries of state and defense and government and Congress officials. The foreign minister also took part in the meetings of the 48th UN General Assembly session and met the foreign ministers of participating states.

Musa pointed out that his talks with U.S. Administration officials revolved around recent world developments, the Middle East, and the chances of success for the peace process. He added that he also discussed the Lockerbie issue and Somalia.

Minister Musa said he took part in the international economic conference in Washington yesterday, which decided to allocate $2.5 billion to the West Bank and Gaza over the next five years, a portion of which will be dedicated immediately to developing the infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho.

Asked about the possibility of making concrete progress along the Syrian-Israeli track and the American reaction to this, Musa replied that U.S. officials, particularly President Clinton and Warren Christopher, with whom he met over three times, reiterated that they are very interested in the Syrian-Israeli track. He added that American officials hope this track will witness progress.

Musa believes there is a good chance of making that progress. He noted that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will discuss the issue with U.S. officials during his visit to Washington on Monday and Tuesday.

Minister Musa said consolidated efforts are being made on various levels and Egypt is following these. He affirmed that there is no cause for despair, because there is much room for hope and reaching an agreement.

Commenting on the meeting in Washington between the Jordanian crown prince and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, 'Amr Musa said it was a fairly good development. He pointed out that open meetings between the Jordanians and Israelis represent a new and positive development in the context of measures to build confidence and improve the general regional climate.

He said the meeting was expected and efforts are being made to achieve the desired progress in the peace process and on the land-for-peace formula.

The foreign minister pointed out that the regional focus on comprehensive peace and the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles are merely the first step. He said he hoped the success of this agreement on principles would enhance the chances of peace along every track.

Commenting on the meeting of African foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, 'Amr Musa stated that there was an agreement on an African presence in South Africa. But he explained that full diplomatic relations with South Africa will only be established after democratic elections are held there. He added that the African Group will request lifting sanctions imposed on South Africa. He also noted that Egypt might open a liaison office in South Africa.

On escalating sanctions against Libya, Minister Musa remarked that there is an inclination to push for the vote on the new draft resolution put forward by the United States, Britain, and France to escalate the sanctions. He said diplomatic action on this needs one or two weeks and affirmed that Egypt is making every effort in this connection.

Musa: Country Watching Developments in Russia

NC0410115193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt is watching Russian developments with strong interest. He noted Russia's international importance and its strong links to Egypt.

Commenting on Russian developments today, Musa expressed hope that stability will immediately return to Moscow so that it can address the many problems that the country is facing in economic and other areas. It is important to prevent bloodshed and maintain the march toward democracy in Russia, he said.

Envoy Affirms Yeltsin 'In Full Control'

NC0410152393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Russian Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov, who briefed him on the latest developments in Russia.

The ambassador pointed out that what happened in Moscow was an armed rebellion that involved an attempt to storm the municipality building, the television station, and other installations.

He added that the police and the security forces did not open fire in response to instructions by the authority. He added that the Russian president's declaration of a state of emergency in Moscow and the prime minister's instructions to bring troops to the capital were to maintain order.

The ambassador stated that the security forces are continuing their storming operation against the parliament building, known as the White House, to expel the extremists and restore order to the capital. He affirmed that President Yeltsin is in full control of the situation in Moscow and that he enjoys the support of all the Russian regions.

Mubarak Addresses Public Before Referendum

NC0310142793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1301 GMT 3 Oct 93

["Statement" by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to the Egyptian people on the occasion marking his nomination for a third term of office on 3 October; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. My fellow citizens: Since you honored me with the primary responsibility, we pledged to work hand in hand to realize major national goals. We agreed on a new social contract, in which each one of us shoulders his share of the national responsibility wherever he might be. A strong society that is capable of standing fast before challenges and ordeals is one in which the citizens participate and do their duty with determination. In that society, there is no negativeness, no negligence, and no hesitation, because it is our collective homeland and any evil or good inflicted on it affects us all, individuals and groups alike, and reflects equally on our lives. There is no difference here between the ruler and the ruled, or between the big and the small; we are all loyal sons to that glorious homeland, which God greatly honored in His noble Koran.

This is what we pledged to do in the near past, over years in which we faced great responsibilities and serious challenges. We achieved considerable success and accomplishments. We worked together in a team spirit. This pledge and oath will continue to be the life line and the safe haven for our collective march over the coming years, in which challenges will increase and responsibilities will be doubled. The homeland will be put to a harder and more serious test in light of the developments that occurred and those expected to occur at the local, regional, and international levels.

This was specifically what prompted me to respond to the call by the people's representatives to accept renomination in order to resume presidential duties for a new term. My strong belief has been that the best way to enable the nation to overcome all difficulties is through every citizen's concern to adhere to a sound democratic path that represents ways and means for a reasonable life and responsible practice rather than mouthing slogans or uttering resounding but inappropriate words. The democratic approach cannot be sound and will not be fruitful until every one of us understands his duty before demanding his rights. And every one of us must understand that he as to get involved before he is entitled to bring people to account or monitor and correct them.

If the first duty required by this involvement is to cast one's vote at public elections and referenda organized by the Constitution and necessitated by the principles of the ruling process, insisting on doing this duty gains increasing significance under special circumstances related to the nature of the challenge the country faces at sensitive stages and critical periods throughout its national history.

Brothers and sisters, you may agree with me that the years to come constitute one of the most dangerous epochs Egypt will encounter. I don't need to elaborate on why this period will be dangerous and delicate, because everyone can feel this through his historical sense and profound patriotic sentiments. I think awareness of the challenges of the next stage prompted your representatives to demand and express your will that I should continue to shoulder the responsibility for another term.

With deep conviction, my realization of the enormous challenges motivated me to accept their wish and respond to their decision, which I cannot reject or change, especially as I see looming on the near horizon a new century that will mark an unprecedented age. This age will place burdens and concerns on us as much as hopes and dreams. My goal is not to call on you to vote in a particular way—that could never be done—or to affect your decision in a particular direction. That issue is up to the conscience and free choice of every one of you. Frankly speaking, as a citizen, before being a president, I pray to God, praising him and offering thanks that he willed that I should live at a time when every citizen can express his views freely without restriction and when numerous parties can say what they think about reelecting a president without fear. That is the peak of democracy and freedom.

As a citizen, I call on you all to be eager to perform this national duty and not abandon it under any pretext. No one should think his vote is futile or will change nothing. I give everyone's vote paramount importance. I don't think

any Egyptian who is zealous about his homeland will hesitate to give that homeland a few minutes as he performs his sublime duty. This is the least a citizen should give his homeland to express his loyalty and esteem. All I want is that every male and female in this homeland will exercise the most basic of their constitutional rights and share in charting the country's future, boosting the march of a free and dignified life, and performing the duty and fulfilling the homeland's call so that the will of the people will have the upper hand and the voice of right and conviction will rise. I ask God almighty to grant us success to achieve our wellbeing and dignity and safeguard our security and stability and to renew our determination and resolve to build a new Egypt with our minds, hands, and conscience. God is the best supporter. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Mubarak on Domestic, International Issues

Views International Relations

NC0110123093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt will continue to work relentlessly on political and diplomatic levels to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He noted that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement—which was thought to be impossible—has provided a better atmosphere for the signing of peace agreements with the other parties concerned. President Mubarak said that all the relevant parties are intent on maintaining Egypt's role and influential presence in all the stages of the negotiations.

In the second part of his interview with AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi', which was published today, President Mubarak expressed his optimism because of comments made by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his recent meetings with them in Alexandria. He said that, although he has not obtained a definite commitment from either of them on a peace agreement between Syria and Israel, a significant breakthrough in relations between the two countries is possible in the next few months. The president added: I heard things from President al-Asad that reinforce my belief that an agreement could be reached within a reasonable amount of time.

Regarding his view of the Libyan-Western crisis after the press has published the draft resolution that will be submitted to the UN Security Council to intensify the sanctions against Libya, President Mubarak said: Libya is a fraternal country with which we maintain special relations that go beyond constant dialogue and population integration. From this premise, we are very interested in the affairs of this fraternal country. We have spared no effort to help achieve a cordially acceptable settlement to the conflict between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France.

The president continued: Our purpose in making these efforts is to avoid uncontrolled escalation of the situation, the consequences of which will not be good for any party. It is no secret that we have made an exhaustive effort on this matter since the conflict began. When the time comes, everyone will know the extent of the efforts that we have made and that we will continue to make until a solution to this crisis is found.

President Mubarak said that Egypt has been able to make some unmistakable headway in the situation. We are doing this to safeguard the interests of all the parties, including Egyptian interests. There is no doubt that it is in our interest to have stability in Libya, for its people to enjoy security and peace, and for cordial relations and cooperation to exist between it and all the countries of the world.

The president noted that he sent Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, to Libya with a message for brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, regarding bilateral relations and the dispute between Libya and the three Western states.

The president also noted that he asked Dr. al-Baz to deliver a message to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He said: We will be happy to welcome brother President Ben Ali in Cairo before the end of the year to continue the dialogue and consultations on what will be for our mutual benefit.

Regarding Egypt's relations with the big powers—led by the United States, the EC, China, and Japan—President Mubarak said: We indeed maintain special and distinctive relations with them to use what these countries have to offer for the benefit of Egypt. These special relations do not mean, as some fear, that Egypt has lost its independent position and has aligned itself with these powers.

President Mubarak underscored the developing good relations with the United States and paid tribute to U.S. President Bill Clinton's complete grasp of the problems in the region. He said that there was no crisis in relations between the two countries. There was just a misunderstanding, nothing more and nothing less. The president said that he is looking forward to meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton this fall to exchange views on Arab-American relations. He noted that the date of this meeting will be set in coming weeks.

The president indicated that the agenda of his upcoming meeting with President Clinton is full. The discussions will include efforts to advance the peace process, the need to achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the Gulf issue, the Libyan-Western crisis, the situation in Sudan, and the future of U.S. aid to Egypt.

On Egypt's relations with the EC and the Scandinavian countries, President Mubarak noted that the EC represents the world's second-largest economic group and that the majority of the EC countries have made serious

moves toward establishing a common market. He said that Egypt has interests in the EC, which is the closest market to Egypt. He added: If we want to increase our exports in the next stage, we must promote our relations with the EC so that our exports can be given privileges similar to those given to EC members and partners.

On Egypt's relations with Japan, President Mubarak described the ties as extremely good. He said everyone is studying Japan's achievements with full appreciation and admiration and that America and Europe are promoting their ties with Japan to attract investment. The president noted Japan's assistance to clear the Suez canal and build an opera house and a number of modern hospitals.

The president also referred to the excellent relations with China. He said China's support for Egypt cannot be denied, noting that it has provided soft loans, notably the one used to build the biggest conference hall in the Middle East. He said the world has its eyes on China, which has the world's highest growth rate.

On Egypt's role in the African continent, especially its chairmanship of the OAU for the second time, President Mubarak said: I was pleased with the assignment, which is an honor for Egypt and its pioneering African role. I will work continuously along two tracks: development and solutions to conflicts.

President Mubarak stressed that he has made every possible effort so that the brothers in South Africa could achieve stability, the African people in this fraternal country could restore their legitimate rights, and the two sides to the conflict could achieve reconciliation after a bloody conflict that has destroyed the country's economy.

President Mubarak added: We also urge parties to other conflicts to solve their problems peacefully. This is possible if minds and hearts are opened. I think this is possible and Egypt will always be available to reconcile the various parties and end conflicts.

The president said that activation of trade among the African countries is his first priority. He said Egypt strongly supported the establishment of an African bank for exports and imports with a capital of $500 million. It hosted the founders' meeting this year and offered to host the bank's headquarters so that it can benefit from Egypt's status.

The president said that he sought financing for the necessary studies for the world's biggest electricity project. He said the $20-billion project, expected to be built in Zaire, will produce the electricity needed by that country and surplus that will be exported to Europe through Sudan and Egypt. This will reflect positively on many African and European countries and strengthen links between Africa and the EC, the president said.

Asked what he thinks of the current ideas about a market including all Middle East countries, Mubarak said that the world is certainly moving toward the formation of economic groups in which many trade restrictions among members are removed.

He noted that the EC has lifted many trade restrictions among the member states; that the United States, Canada, and Mexico have agreed to establish a trade group; and that Japan is seeking to coordinate its trade with that of the Asian group.

The president stressed that establishing such markets require study and time to achieve common benefits and ensure that no party gains at the expense of the others.

President Mubarak said: As far as we are concerned, we will seek to activate trade with all countries. As I said earlier, the future of development in Egypt is linked to the country's ability to activate its exports, and increasing the national product for the purpose of export will definitely increase our imports.

On domestic challenges in the next stage, President Mubarak said that the most important challenge is fixing the chronic structural disorders the Egyptian economy is suffering that have had an impact on everyday life.

He explained that economic reforms have achieved good results that are shown in the average drop of the general budget deficit from 22 percent in the 1970's to 3.5 percent in the last two years.

He noted that the balance of payment achieved a huge surplus during the same period after it suffered a 15 percent deficit. He said that more surplus will be achieved in the near future, in addition to a lessening of dependence on treasury bonds in financing the budget.

The president added that the state will encourage non-conventional exports, get rid of government bureaucracy burdens, and continue the gradual liberalization of foreign trade.

Replying to a question on unemployment in Egypt, the president asserted the need to tackle this problem using an integrated strategy with clear goals, bases, approaches, and means to eliminate or at least curb the repercussions of this problem. He remarked that there are also efforts aimed at providing new job opportunities and encouraging and developing labor-intensive industries to absorb more labor.

On the negative impact of economic reform, the president emphasized the need to minimize its impact on the segments of society that are most likely to be affected. He said the public spending policy still plays an important role in protecting a decent living standard for those with limited income. He affirmed that during the next stage there will be a relative balance between wages and prices within the available resources by the end of 1995.

Mubarak commented on reports of Egypt's diminishing role after achieving peace and after the start of direct negotiations between all the parties. He said the world knows that Egypt has not sought a role and that the

opposite is true. The parties involved in conflicts in the region have sought Egypt's help in giving advise, supporting the right side, and confronting the aggressor. He noted that Egypt's strength attracts the rival parties and those who have various interests. He explained that this strength does not mean only military power but also culture, economic progress, and a learned and skilled labor force.

He pointed out that Egypt—with its ulema, experts, writers, authors, and art pioneers—will remain an attractive magnet for neighbors and brothers.

On the role of Egyptian diplomacy in the next stage, he said that this role is (?defined) very briefly in the areas of ending conflicts and establishing regional and world peace and in development. He noted that the efforts of those working in the diplomatic corps will be directed toward activating and attracting investments in Egypt and taking care of the more than 3 million Egyptian expatriates abroad.

Discusses Israeli-PLO Agreement

NC0210234593 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 2022 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Mufid Fawzi carried within the program "Egypt On His Mind"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Fawzi] The people want to hear about the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. What next?

[Mubarak] I want to say something about the recent agreement. The Arab summit conference in Rabat said the PLO is the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinians]. I have abided by this. I even wrangled with the U.S. Administration during the Reagan Presidency because of the PLO. They got very angry because I said the PLO is the sole legitimate representative. I asked them: Why, by God? Every Arab leader knows this; this is an Arab summit decision. Why should you get angry about it? We tell you, based on the practical reality and our experience, that you can't solve the problem until you talk with the organization. Listen to them. I don't say give them anything. Understand them. Hear how and what they think? Perhaps they will offer good methods. They will impose nothing on you. Just listen, hold dialogue to understand how the man thinks; this is the way you can reach a solution with him.

We persisted until we achieved the Palestinian agreement. It is basically a recognition of the PLO. This is what we have been discussing for years. The organization will talk with Israel and then everybody else. We know there were secret talks, but we did not know the details about them. We knew about the talks last March. Then, we were surprised to learn that they initialed the agreement in Oslo. We learned about it from the Israelis. Later, I saw Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. I asked him whether he had talked with President Hafiz al-Asad about this. He said he had no chance to talk with him. I urged him to meet him. Abu-'Ammar went to see him. That was a week before the signing. After he met President Hafiz al-Asad. [sentence as heard] President Hafiz al-Asad says he was surprised. Perhaps he blamed us for knowing and some of our Palestinian brothers also blamed us for knowing and keeping it a secret. We knew there were secret agreements, that they held secret talks. But what were they discussing? I could not tell President Hafiz al-Asad. We talked with Rabin about Jericho, but it seems they discussed this issue before. It seems so, but I do not know.

I learned from President al-Asad through statements by Norway's man that secret negotiations had been taking place since 1992. But we didn't know about these negotiations. Truly, we did not know about them. Abu-'Ammar told me when he came here to visit me in Ismailia that they were discussing Gaza and Jericho. So I discussed Jericho with him and kept Gaza for later; they would have a part of the West Bank and a part of the Gaza Strip. He told me that day that he had no objections to their presenting this proposal at the negotiating table. He said he rejects secret negotiations if they take place without Egypt's knowledge.

We learned about the agreement only one day before. After that, we did not interfere until they declared they had initialed an agreement. We didn't even know what they had initialed until Abu-'Ammar came here and told us. I told him he should travel to Syria. I like honesty. I don't like to hide things from anyone. But if you are keeping a secret and you reveal it to me—Abu-'Ammar came and told me they were holding secret talks only two days before Rabin came here—I won't reveal your secret. I might ruin too many things. But so long as there is no damage to anyone's interests, if there is a secret on a certain issue, then I will advise you to talk to the person concerned, otherwise you might have problems.

But I did not know—everyone was contacting everyone else—we did not know what subjects were being discussed. The whole trend was clear, though: It was to enable them to start the solution. Then, Abu-'Ammar came here. After President al-Asad left on Sunday [26 September], Abu-'Ammar was here with me on Wednesday. He spoke with me about a missing point concerning mutual recognition, which, if the Palestinians had not included it, no mutual recognition would have taken place. Those who would have signed such an agreement would not have been a part of the PLO.

[Fawzi] What is the point?

[Mubarak] The point pertains to renouncing terrorism and canceling one item in the Palestinian national charter on the destruction of Israel. The points relate to this subject. The Palestinians say they cannot cancel these points. I was in Cairo and Abu-'Ammar came to visit me. It was a Wednesday. I told him they should sit down with the Israelis and reach an understanding on this point. I made the foreign minister telephone the Norwegian foreign minister. And Usamah [al-Baz, first

Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs] telephoned the Israeli foreign minister. While we were sitting there in the al-'Urubah Palace, the telephone calls were made and agreement was reached to meet in Paris on the Wednesday. We spoke to the Israelis and they said they had no objections. Rabin responded positively and they sent a delegation. The Palestinians left for Tunis, spent the night holding discussions and quarreling, and the next morning, the Thursday, they left for France. They met the Israelis, then we were surprised that they signed. I was pleased and thought it was good. But what did they sign? We did not know what compromise [preceding word in English] or concessions they had made.

The process entered the stage of signing and countersigning. I could not go, of course, because I was pressed for time. And Syria was not present then. So I dispatched the foreign minister to attend the signing ceremony. The U.S. President sent me a message saying he was ready to receive me. I told him I was pressed for time. It was quite a noble gesture by him to invite Egypt to attend due its contribution to the peace process and efforts for peace. So, I continue to reiterate that no war can take place without Egypt and no peace can take place without Egypt. Stability cannot be established without Egypt. I say this very clearly and have repeated it often to foreign media.

[Fawzi] Allow me to ask a question that might not be diplomatically shrewd, but I will ask it because it is a question on the mind of every Egyptian on the street. During the signing ceremony for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Egypt was not mentioned. I and the whole world know very well what you did ...

[Mubarak interrupts] I would like to say one thing. The whole thing happened too quickly. There was also much confusion. But I want to tell you; I think AL-AHRAM published an article about this: Abu-'Ammar did not want to stay [in Washington] overnight. He wanted to come here to me. Actually, the U.S. President telephoned me. He talked to me and told me they could not forget Egypt's role. He said they wanted to continue to cooperate and that we must meet soon. I believe the man was trying to express the thought that, perhaps, circumstances were hasty, events took place quickly, and there were many speeches. Abu-'Ammar even told me he did not want to deliver a speech. He wrote the speech at 0200. Perhaps there were some unfortunate circumstances, but Egypt's efforts are clear to all. The U.S. President himself said this. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] Mr. President, this is the last question. Permit me to present a simple referendum form and the response: I approve, I do not approve. [words indistinct] The first question in this referendum is: Do you agree that the security service in your government allows a banner with "No to a Third Term" to be raised beside the banners of support on the streets?

[Mubarak] By God, I have never told the security service to remove the No or the Yes. The service doesn't do that. Whoever wants to say no, let him say no. All I ask is that every citizen go to the referendum ballot box.

[Fawzi] Even if there is a banner on the street?

[Mubarak] So what? We need to learn liberties and democracy. The first article in democracy is for the citizen to know his vote counts. Votes are valuable. They can foil the election of a representative, a state president, a member of the People's Assembly, or anybody else. I am not perturbed by anyone saying no. I say to every citizen: Go to the ballot box, say no, and do not be afraid. No one will do anything to you. On the contrary, I like to hear no. I don't want all yes. An all yes response is fabricated. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] Do you agree to have the emergency law replaced by a terrorism law?

[Mubarak] I wish. If we want to introduce a law, some start to say we want to introduce another extraordinary law. I said there will be no extraordinary laws. The emergency law exists and helps in the measures. Normally, we do not use the emergency law. We only use it against terrorism. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] Is it true that peace, as some claim, will lessen Egypt's importance?

[Mubarak] No. These are claims made by some articles published in foreign newspapers. Do you mean to say that after peace, all problems end? Egypt is the biggest country in the region. Whether we like it or not, Egypt is the most influential country in the region and the region cannot do without it. Egypt is an Arab country. Some might claim that Israel is on the side of the United States, but Egypt is an Arab Islamic country with the biggest role in the region. It has a history, it has its own culture, art, intellectuals, universities, media, people, values and principles, and a huge heritage. Therefore, we care about keeping our country economically and politically strong, despite the problems.

I say this. Time will disprove the claim that Egypt will lose its importance. Time will prove that Egypt will not lose its influential power in the region, irrespective of the circumstances.

[Fawzi] In war or peace?

[Mubarak] Come war or peace.

Comments on Arab Summit, Democracy

NC0210121793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1139 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that he is still trying to achieve inter-Arab reconciliation. "But, of course, there are many difficulties that we hope to overcome," he added.

On the convening of an Arab summit, President Mubarak said in a statement published by the Cairo

newspaper AL-MASA' this afternoon: "This also is not easy. It requires that the atmosphere be cleared first."

On democracy, the president said: "I will support democracy and freedom as long as I live because I want them to have firm foundations."

On next Monday's [4 October] referendum to elect him president for a third term, Mubarak said: "Every vote has its value in any elections or referendums because it entrenches citizens' right to exercise their role and participate in decisionmaking."

He added: "It is natural to have different opinions; this does not spoil cordial relations and it exists in all societies."

President Mubarak noted that ministers sometimes express opposing views, adding: "This serves citizens better as long as the decision is finally issued by the majority of votes."

Urges Reconciliation, Views Iran Ties

NC0310081393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stressed that he will continue the efforts to effect an Arab reconciliation and expressed hope that the problems facing it will be solved in cooperation with the other Arab countries.

In an interview with MAYU, the weekly newspaper of the National Democratic Party, published today, President Mubarak said that conditions will be ripe for holding an Arab summit when the atmosphere clears.

Regarding reports on the establishment of a Middle East market through which trade and economic transactions will take place between the Arabs and Israel, President Mubarak said there is nothing of the sort so far.

The president denied reports that there is Omani mediation to clear the atmosphere between Egypt and Iran.

In reply to a question on establishing diplomatic relations between Egypt and South Africa following the amendment of the latter's Constitution, President Mubarak said: I am the OAU chairman, and I will implement whatever the African summit decides.

President Mubarak stressed that he will continue to bolster democracy and expressed the hope that all the political forces will help him to do so.

He stressed that the stability of the region depends on Egypt's stability. He said that everyone in the Arab region knows this. He also stressed that stability enables us to continue with development and reform programs and warned that all this will stop if there is a setback. He added: We have succeeded in canceling $25 billion of our debts, which are now less than they were in 1981.

In reply to a question about the timing of the [ministerial] change, President Mubarak said: I will not think about the change until after the popular referendum and after I get to know the people's view. But the nature of the situation and life needs change, and this will certainly happen and it will be comprehensive and broad in line with the nature of the coming stage.

Editorial Welcomes Israeli-Jordanian Meeting

NC0210075893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has welcomed the meeting between Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which was called for by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the meeting is the first public contact at this level between the two sides and paves the way for a comprehensive peace between Jordan and Israel.

The paper says that the meeting confirms earlier news, denied by Jordan and Israel, that King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met aboard a ship in the port of al-'Aqabah.

The paper believes that Israel's confirmation of the denial is evidence that the meeting did take place. It says that this is not strange, especially with Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV's disclosure that 23 secret meetings have been held between senior Jordanian and Israeli officials over the past three years, although they were not productive.

The paper urges that the progress made on the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jordanian tracks be linked to progress on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks so that the peace process continues and the enthusiasm of the participants and the current favorable climate are not lost.

Concluding, the paper calls on the Israelis to respect the Syrian people's will to regain the occupied Golan Heights.

Minister To Disclose Arrest of 'Dangerous Terrorists'

NC0210123293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that in the next few days security services will disclose the arrest of dangerous terrorists who had planned a number of operations to create instability in the country.

Speaking today after attending a graduation ceremony for a new group of Central Security officers, the minister said that some groups have been captured and will be brought to trial. He said that security campaigns are being launched daily to arrest these people.

He said that some people have been arrested and weapons and documents confiscated proving that they were planning terrorist operations. He stressed that the police are aborting such operations. [passage omitted]

Police Officer Killed in Clash With 'Terrorists'

NC0310071693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Suez, 3 Oct (MENA)—Major Muhammad Hasan 'Abd-al-Shafi from the Suez Security Directorate was martyred and a recruit was injured when the security forces confronted a riot staged by some terrorist elements.

This was stated by a responsible security source in the Interior Ministry. The source said that at 1930 yesterday, a large number of terrorist elements assembled after evening prayers in the Nur al-Iman Mosque in the Hayy al-Arba'in police station jurisdiction in Suez city with the aim of rioting in the city and putting up some hostile posters. The security source added that the security forces confronted them immediately but the terrorists attacked the police. As a result of this attack, Maj. Muhammad Hasan 'Abd-al-Shafi was martyred, and the recruit was wounded.

The security organs arrested six terrorists. Three other terrorists were injured, and a large number of personal weapons and bayonets were seized.

The Suez Security Directorate personnel, the ministry's investigation organs, and the public security and state security organs went immediately to the site of the incident. The security forces are currently encircling the area and combing it in search of the remaining terrorist elements.

The Higher State Security's prosecution office has been notified of the incident.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Trial To Resume 23 October

NC0210201393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1934 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 2 Oct (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court - Emergency in al-Fayyum resumes its sessions on 23 October presided over by Counselor Ahmad 'Izzat to try the case of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the mufti of the al-Jihad organization, and 48 other defendants concerning events at the al-Shuhada' mosque in al-Fayyum Governorate in April 1989. Two defendants made a representation against the court president, which was rejected.

At its last session, the court ordered the arrest of all the defendants in the case. Some 37 have been arrested and only 10 remain at large, among them Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is in the United States.

Charges against defendant Hasan Shalqani were dropped after the death sentence was carried out against him following his sentencing for the attempted assassination of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Vanguards of Conquest Trials Postponed

NC0210222593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2058 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Alexandria, 2 Oct (MENA)—The Higher Military Court in Alexandria today decided to postpone the case of the Vanguards of Conquest Three until the 5 October session to continue hearing the defense statement.

Today, the court heard seven hours of the defense statement from the first, second, third, 10th, 17th, and 33d defendants.

The case involves 33 defendants. The military prosecution has leveled many charges against them the punishment for which, if they are found guilty, could be the death sentence.

The Court also decided today to postpone trying the fourth part of the Vanguards of Conquest case until 9 October, when it will hear the defense statement.

During the session, the prosecution charged the defendants in the case with joining a group that was formed against the law with the objective of changing the government by force, destroying the Constitution and law, and plotting to commit murders.

The prosecution also charged the defendants with threatening social security and peace and acquiring fire arms, explosives, and ammunition without licenses.

The prosecution decided to release four defendants from the prosecution prison: Muhammad 'Ali Hajjari, Muhammad Abu-al-Fadl 'Abd-al-Salam, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman, and Ihab Kamal 'Abd-al-Maqsud. The Court heard the military prosecution's statement in the fourth part of the Vanguards of Conquest case, which includes 54 defendants, among them two fugitives.

Libya

West Seen Trying To 'Escalate' Tripoli Boycott

LD0210154593 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] As part of their hostile policy toward the Great Jamahiriyah and in defiance of the will of the international community, which has announced, through its regional and international organizations, its full support and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah regarding the crisis between Libya and the Western countries, and the international community's demand that all coercive sanctions imposed on Libya through Resolution 748 be lifted, the three Western countries, i.e. the United States,

Britain, and France, are putting pressure on the Security Council to issue a new resolution to escalate the coercive, unfair sanctions.

News reports indicate that these countries have prepared a resolution in this respect stating: The draft resolution freezes Libya's assets abroad, however, it exempts funds arising from the slae of oil, natural gas, agricultural produce, and commodities after the resolution comes into force. The draft resolution bans the sale of equipment used in refineries and the transport of oil. It gives a detailed list of this equipment. However, the list excludes production equipment used by Libya for oil exploration. The draft resolution seals the loopholes in the air embargo in force since April 1992, such as the immediate and total closure of the offices of Arab Libyan Airlines abroad.

The draft resolution promises to suspend all sanctions immediately after Libya hands over the two suspects in the Pan Am incident, and complies with the demands of a French judge to investigate the mid-air explosion aboard the French airliner over Niger in 1989. These measures could be reimposed after 90 days if the remaining demands in the 1992 sanctions resolution are not complied with. These demands include compensation for the families of the plane crash victims. The permanent representative of the Great Jamahiriyah at the United Nations has made a statement to journalists about the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western countries in which he said:

The Secretariat of the Libyan People's Jamahiriyah is concentrating on tackling the artificial crisis between her and the three Western countries in spite of what these countries think. Libya intends to tackle the crisis in order to exonerate herself and to cooperate with the international community in identifying the real culprit. This artificial crisis, the preliminary investigations of which took several years, in addition to being artificial, is a complex and ambiguous crisis and it is inconceivable that it will be solved within weeks, let alone days. To think that it is possible to solve this crisis—which has continued for several years—within hours, is taking the world into the illogical, a world of immature rather than responsible thinking.

However, the Great Jamahiriyah continues to tackle this crisis with wisdom, patience, and seriousness in order to exonerate herself on the one hand, and to eradicate terrorism in cooperation with the international community on the other, and without giving any consideration to the ultimatum of the three Western countries.

Envoy: Offer To Yield Lockerbie Suspects Final

JN0110184593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Dispatch by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi from Brussels]

[Text] Muhammad Sharaf-al-Din al-Fayturi, Libya's ambassador to Belgium and the EC and his country's preeminent spokesman in Europe, spoke to Radio Monte Carlo today about his country's agreement to hand over two Libyan suspects to stand trial in Scotland. The most recent Libyan offer, he emphasized, will not be revised or replaced because it follows the two suspects being talked into surrendering themselves to Scottish authorities.

The Libyan diplomat stressed that convincing the suspects to surrender themselves takes time, as there can be no coercing them into it. Such a course of action would be at odds with the most fundamental principles of international law, which do not provide for any country handing over its subjects to a foreign power.

The Libyan Government is also trying to win the approval of the suspects' relatives and attorneys, al-Fayturi noted.

AL-SHAMS Calls on UN's Ghali To Step Down

LD0310143493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Oct (JANA)—In its leading article today, AL-SHAMS calls on UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to give up his post [words indistinct] after having become a conveyor of messages and ultimatums from America and the European countries to the peoples of the Third World. The paper says that to remain in his post is not in his own interest, or does it honor his country, Egypt, or does it serve the Arab nation to which he belongs, and that it is preferrable that he should leave the post of the secretary general [words indistinct].

In an article in AL-SHAMS today, under the headline: "That is why we are calling on you anew to leave your post", the paper says:

The United Nations began as a world gathering in which peoples stood equal in order to build a new world shaded by love and peace and without having a place for the whims of war or aggression. Despite the essential [word indistinct] which accompanied the building of that organization and its movement, despite its domination by the strong, despite the narrow membership of the Council, and despite the veto, which gives a number of its members the right to confiscate and [word indistinct], the international will, the small nations did not lose hope in developing it so that it can [word indistinct] the international will, on the basis of equality among nations and peoples. However, this hope has become impossible following the collapse of the balance of power, as a result of the absence of the Soviet Union and the fact that one single power, the United States, has now unilateraly got its grip on the destiny of this world, and has become the only power to determine the world's decision and future.

The United States and its western allies have managed to dominate the international organization and make it a tool for implementing their plans to tighten their grip on the world [word indistinct] and gamble world peace. It is regrettable that, during the past two years, history has

witnessed all the unjust resolutions that have come from the United Nations and its security council: the Gulf War and the blockade of Iraq, the unjust resolutions on Libya, and the invasion of Somalia are but examples of the suspect role of the international organization.

AL-SHAMS adds that the United Nations has been transformed into a new NATO, whereby the membership of the latter has been expanded to embrace the world, thus the United Nations has become a tool to intimidate peoples and strengthen their submission to the will of the United States and its allies. In order for the United States to camouflage its aims, it was necessary to do so by way of [word indistinct] efficiencies and from states enjoying influence and confidence throughout the third world. The choice of Dr. Butrus Ghali for the secretariat general and precisely from Egypt was a conspiracy [word indistinct] as the man has political experience and Egypt has its cultural and [words indistinct] weight, [words indistinct] as the post of the secretary general has become a mere postman to carry messages, ultimatums, and threats. His continuation in this post may conceal the attitude of the West, which is hostile to world security and peace, and cover up the real aims of the West, which are at loggerheads with the aspirations and expectations of the helpless peoples.

AL-SHAMS concludes: Therefore, and out of our respect for his political experience and international role, and in order to preserve Egypt's historic role, and for the sake of world peace and the UN itself, we renew the call on Dr. Butrus Ghali to leave his post and hand over the organization's keys to its owners, so that the West can be unmasked clearly. Then the small nations and the states of the third world will leave this cocoon and establish its new organization in which they can breathe freedom and defend their interests and future, and confront the international arrogance led by America and supported by the West.

Paper Calls for Revival of Mathaba Movement

LD0310181193 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al Timur [October] 3, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL SHAMS newspaper called for the resumption of the activities of the International Mathaba [Platform] for Resistance Against Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, and Reaction.

The paper asserted that the activities of the International Al Mathaba were all good deeds which the peoples of the world are aspiring to. Al Mathaba aim is the victory of the masses and their cause against terrorism and dictatorship and that the best evidence of its credibility is that it did not exercise any influence on the freedom movements which triumphed with its help and reached power. AL SHAMS newspaper said in an editorial entitled: "A Call For Convening the General Congress of the International Mathaba" that the latter did not act in violation of its charter and that the closure of Al Mathaba was totally unjustified act.

The paper stressed that this is a dire call to be aware of this ugly betrayal which robbed the Libyan men and women of their greatest medal of courage and the highest order of honour won by them for their support for the cause of freedom.

AL SHAMS asserted the need for the International Mathaba more than ever before and that the raison d'etre for Al Mathaba continues to exist and its closure was unjustified.

Tunisia

UK's Hogg Meets With 'Arafat, Pledges Assistance

LD0210130793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Douglas Hogg, the British minister of state for foreign affairs, ended his official visit to Tunisia by holding a news conference yesterday evening, during which he expressed his appreciation for the important role played by Tunisia in the Middle East peace process that led to the signing of the Palestinian- Israeli agreement. He remarked that Tunisia was also called upon to play a pioneering role in the future, as was clear from its hosting of the Palestinian Refugees' Committee within the next few days, within the framework of multilateral negotiations.

The British minister of state for foreign affairs described Tunisian-British relations as extremely good and expressed the hope that they would continue to develop on political and economic levels. Hogg stressed that his country's government welcomed the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming visit to Britain. Hogg held a 40-minute meeting with 'Arafat yesterday evening and pledged British aid for the implementation of self-rule in the occupied territories.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses Regional Security Issue

LD0110213993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Excerpts] United Nations, 1 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwait has urged UN member countries to ask the Iraqi regime to respect UN resolutions, especially resolutions pertaining to the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, and to release Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraqi prisons.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said in his UN General Assembly address last night: We urge all UN member states to welcome the Security Council resolutions on border demarcation and sanctity as basic elements in the building of regional security. He added: We expect the member countries to ask the Iraqi regime to respect the resolutions and to link the lifting of sanctions on Iraq to all the Security Council resolutions, particularly those concerning border demarcation and the releasing of prisoners and detainees. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister expressed Kuwait's confidence in the Security Council's wisdom and member countries' capability to shoulder the burden of responsibility and ensure that the Iraqi regime realizes it has no choice but to implement all Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah affirmed that security in the Gulf region is linked to world security. This makes the international community responsible for guaranteeing the sovereignty of states, their independence and territorial integrity, and to help those subjected to aggression in any conflict between states. He said building regional security in the Gulf region required all Gulf states to build trust as a basic platform to realize this common objective. [passage omitted]

He also stressed the importance attached by Kuwait to improve and develop its relations with Iran in accordance with the principles of good neighborliness, noninterference, and respect of sovereignty as defined by the Gulf Cooperation Council's Higher Council. He further said that Kuwait was also interested in underlining the United Arab Emirate's [UAE] sovereignty over its three islands: Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb, and Greater Tunb. He said Kuwait absolutely supports all peaceful measures taken by the UAE to recover its sovereignty over its islands. He said Kuwait hopes dialogue between the two countries would remove any issues pending between them. He added that Kuwait urged Iran to seek arbitration in international conventions and resort to peaceful means to resolve this dispute.

Regarding the Middle East peace process, Shaykh Sabah said: Kuwait welcomes the agreement signed between the Palestinians and Israel. Kuwait considers the agreement a preliminary step in Palestinians' efforts to exercise their right to self-determination, to liberate their territory from occupation, and to build their own national institutions. He affirmed that success of the peace process depended on Israel's commitment to carry out UN resolutions, especially those calling for the full and unconditional withdrawal from the Syrian Arab Golan Heights and from southern Lebanon.

He also stressed the tragedy of the Bosnian people, who are subjected to vicious aggression by Serbs and Croats who are trying to impose a fait accompli and wrest regional gains by imposing an unjust settlement on Muslims in Bosnia. He called on the Security Council and the EEC to take quick and effective measures to avoid rewarding aggression and conferring legitimacy on its consequences. He urged the international community to lift the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia so that its people may defend themselves. He mentioned in this respect the recent visit to Kuwait by Bosnian President Izetbegovic and said the visit came as a crowning of Kuwaiti's continuous support for the struggle of Bosnian Muslims.

Direct Assistance for PLO Autonomy Ruled Out

NC0110151193 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 1 (AFP)—Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah ruled out direct assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's efforts to set up self-rule in the occupied territories.

But he did not exclude some form of Kuwaiti participation in an international programme to develop the territories, the newspaper AL-ANBA' reported Friday [1 October].

"The government is not willing to support the one who stabbed us and who backed our enemy," Shaykh Sa'd said in reference to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, whom Kuwait has accused of siding with Iraq during the Gulf war.

Shaykh Sa'd was speaking with MPs who, according to the daily, strongly opposed "any assistance to the PLO" and called for coordination among the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council of which Kuwait is a member.

"Any decision must be based on the interests of Kuwait," Shaykh Sa'd, who is also crown prince, told the MPs.

He said Kuwait could participate in an international effort to set up self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, which are to receive autonomy on October 13 following the signing of a PLO-Israeli accord.

But Kuwait's contribution "will not be similar to the participation of other (GCC) states," Shaykh Sa'd added. He did not elaborate.

Gulf monarchies have said they would help finance self-rule in Gaza and Jericho but did not specify how

much they would contribute. The GCC also groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

An international conference on aid for the occupied territories opens Friday in Washington.

Poll: 75 Percent Oppose Normal Ties With Israel

NC0210181193 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Oct 2 (AFP)—Most Kuwaitis oppose the emirate's establishing diplomatic ties with Israel following the PLO-Israeli peace accord, according to a poll published here Saturday [2 October].

The survey of 240 respondents by the daily AL-SIYASAH said 75 percent of Kuwaitis were against establishing relations with the Jewish state and more than 74 percent opposed selling it Kuwaiti oil.

Also, 54 percent of those questioned said they would not visit Israel and the occupied territories, while 33 percent said they would consider it.

The United States has urged Arab countries to normalize their relations with Israel and lift their 42-year-old embargo against it after last month's signing in Washington of the landmark PLO-Israeli limited autonomy accord for the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

But more than 64 percent of the polled Kuwaitis said they opposed the agreement and 74 percent of them disagreed with extending financial aid to help implement the self-rule accord.

Kuwait's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization deteriorated during the Gulf crisis when the PLO backed Iraq after it invaded the emirate in August 1990.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh 'Firmly Committed' to Israeli-PLO Deal

LD0310163793 Riyadh SPA in English 1241 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, Oct 3, SPA—Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has reiterated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will remain firmly committed to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based of the resolutions 242 and 338, issued by the Security Council.

We, along with our colleagues in the Gulf Cooperations [Council], were among the first to extend our support to the declaration of principles signed by the Palestinian and Israeli leaders in Washington. We believe it to be a bold step towards the resolution of the problem which constitutes the core of the Arab- Israeli conflict, said Prince Sa'ud here last Friday [1 October] while addressing the International Donors' Conference for mobilization of political and material support to the Palestinian people.

Prince Sa'ud expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by the co-sponsors of the peace conference [words indistinct].

I would like also to join other speakers in paying tribute to President Clinton and his administration for taking initiative in convening this conference as the Palestinians enter a historical phase of assuming responsibility for their own affairs in Gaza and the West Bank, said Prince Sa'ud.

Prince Sa'ud pointed out that the road for peace in the Middle East was still a complicated one.

But we hope that this initial step will pave the way towards a successful outcome for the peace launched in Madrid in Oct 1991, said Prince Sa'ud.

Prince Sa'ud said the momentum generated by this achievement should be reinforced by successful negotiations on the outstanding issues like the question of Jerusalem as well as speedy movement in the other tracks of the peace process.

To realize this goal, the international political and material support will remain a matter of vital importance, he elaborated.

Prince Sa'ud said the Saudi Government would be pleased to participate in the international efforts in this respect and at the same time it believes in the important role that might be played by the regional financial institutions in this regard.

Prince Sa'ud reiterated that the kingdom would remain committed to contribution to the process of development in the occupied territories.

We attach great importance to the development of the existing infrastructure and building newly required ones with a view to realizing the development objectives of the Palestinian economy, he noted.

Prince Sa'ud highlighted the role being played by the World Bank in assisting the Palestinians to identify their development needs for the next five years.

We commend the work of the bank and express our confidence in its ability to carry out the task of coordinating assistance extended by donor countries [words indistinct] to this end, he said.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is willing to contribute through the Saudi Development Fund to the bank's efforts in this regard, he pointed out.

The kingdom is pleased to pledge one hundred million U.S. dollars during the course of 1994 to the World Bank's program for the urgent development requirements of the Palestinian economy, he said.

The Saudi Development Fund has been instructed to coordinate with the World Bank in funding the development program in the occupied territories, he added.

Prince Sa'ud hoped that the conference would demonstrate the interest of the international community for the realization of peace in the Middle East so as to sustain the momentum for progress in the peace process.

Israeli Disarmament-Arab Boycott Linkage Sought

PM0110143593 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 29 Sep 93 pp 1, 36

[Editorial: "Boycott... and Israeli Nuclear Disarmament!!"]

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli agreement will not be the end of story, because the celebrations and protocols that accompanied the signing were just a media show which does not indicate that all obstacles have been resolved or reflect acceptance of sound solutions moving toward peace from the angle of a partnership to build the region without fearing wars.

In signing, Israel wanted all the Arab states to revoke the boycott policy and sign a charter on the elimination of all causes of war. But it has not said what it is going to offer to the Palestinians in terms of territory, how it is going to treat the refugees of the 1948 and 1967 wars, or what path it is going to follow with Syria regarding withdrawal from the Golan. Nor has it agreed to an internationally-guaranteed, fixed timetable for its nuclear disarmament.

Let us take the Soviet Union, a superpower now limited to Russia, and see how long roads roads of bargaining were traveled until comprehensive agreements were concluded on moving its forces from Europe, removing the missiles targeting the United States and Europe, dismantling many of the mass destruction weapons, and finally suspending nuclear experiments. These steps permitted the seven rich states to provide aid and material and moral support to Russia.

Militarily, Israel is in the same situation as Russia with regard to the Arab homeland. And even if we assume that it does not have the same material need or crisis that befell Russia after its separation from the Soviet Union bloc, it cannot ignore the reasons which prompted it to accept peace, namely that it is economic ties with the region's states which determine the features of a more stable future and coexistence.

Let us take Syria, which Israel tried to eclipse or isolate from the peace process to pressure it into signing an agreement offering a minimum—a formula which Syria rejects. Maybe Israel's concerns that Damascus might maintain its political and military commitments toward peace cause it to keep the Palestinian card in its hands. Because Jericho and Gaza are not good value for the price paid for peace, and because there are geographical, material, and demographic complications which cannot be left to the mood and decisions of Israel alone. Thus the situation with Syria continues to be tense, because it is the most important and has more influence over Lebanon and Jordan, and even the Palestinians.

Israeli nuclear disarmament should be linked with the boycott terms and joint projects... and opening borders, not at the level of a state or a province, but at the level of the Arab homeland. Because negotiation on the basis of nuclear launchpads will not give peace any political value. Thus, if Israel is trying to link signing the agreement with the Palestinians to all the other terms and to push the Western states and the United States to put pressure on the Arabs, this logic cannot be accepted. And as we said, the yardstick is the Russian-Western agreement reached despite the existence of two powers equal in terms of deterrence, in contrast to the Arabs—who possess conventional weapons only—and territories over which bargaining is conducted through force and world diplomatic pressure.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Message From Clinton

JN0410134793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1238 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 4 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, has received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton. The message concerns the situation in the Gulf and developments in the Middle East, as well as bilateral ties.

The message was conveyed by U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena when his highness received him here today.

Ekeus, UN Special Commission Arrive 1 Oct

Ekeus on 'Fruitful' Talks

JN0110152493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the UN Special Commission, arrived in Baghdad at noon today. He is leading a delegation to follow up on the talks held in Baghdad and New York in July and September.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival at the al-Rashid Hotel where he will be staying, Mr. Ekeus said: We are looking forward to the talks we will hold here in Baghdad, which we see as a followup to the process that we began last July, and which has, thus far, been fruitful. We hope the upcoming talks in Baghdad will be successful also.

Our talks with the Iraqi side, he added, are ongoing, and we have achieved a good amount of understanding, and we hope we will achieve an equal amount of success this time.

INA has learned that the talks between Iraq and the Special Commission will start at the Foreign Ministry at 1030 sharp tomorrow morning.

Official Talks Open

JN0210151593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Official talks between Iraq and a UN Special Commission delegation entrusted with the issue of banned Iraqi weapons began at the Foreign Ministry today. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz led the Iraqi side. Rolf Ekeus, head of the Special Commission, led the UN delegation.

At the beginning of the session, Tariq 'Aziz stressed the importance of this round, which is a continuation of the two useful rounds of talks held in Baghdad in July and in New York in September with the aim of finally closing this file.

Ekeus expressed thanks and gratitude for being in Baghdad to continue and complete the New York discussions and to finish the technical matters related to this part of Resolution 687.

The Iraqi delegation included Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Sa'd al-Faysal, senior under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and several technicians and experts. The Special Commission delegation included Professor Maurisio Zifferero, deputy chairman of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and several technicians.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that a second round of talks will be held this afternoon.

Talks Resume 3 Oct

JN0310123993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Iraq and a UN delegation including the head of the Special Commission, which is entrusted with the issue of banned Iraqi weapons, and the deputy chairman of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] resumed official talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz led the Iraqi side to the talks. Rolf Ekeus led the UN delegation. The two sides resumed discussions on the topics that were raised during yesterday's morning and evening sessions. Today's talks were aimed at settling the remaining secondary issues which concern Part C of Resolution 687, which deals with the weapons that Iraq is banned from possessing or manufacturing, so as to finally close this file.

It is noteworthy that closing the banned weapons file means that the UN Security Council will meet its obligations toward Iraq by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which provides for lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent following the two-hour morning session, Rolf Ekeus said that Iraq and the UN Special Commission held three sessions yesterday and this morning. He affirmed that the two sides are holding more talks.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that two sessions of talks will be held this evening at the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] and the Foreign Ministry.

The Iraqi side to the talks included MIO director Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, Foreign Ministry Under Secretaries Sa'd al-Faysal and Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, and a number of technicians and experts.

The Special Commission delegation included Professor Maurizio Zifferero, IAEA deputy chairman; Tim Trevan, official spokesman for the Special Commission; and a number of technicians and experts.

Evening Round Held

JN0310212993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2105 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpt] At the Foreign Ministry this evening, a fresh round of official talks was held between Iraq and the United Nations.

Cochaired for Iraq by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and for the United Nations by the chairman of the UN Special Commission, the talks picked up where yesterday's and this morning's sessions left off. The talks seek to close the file of the weapons Iraq is prohibited from manufacturing under UN Security Council Resolution 687. [passage omitted]

Paper: Talks Mean End to Blockade

JN0210130393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0921 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has described the upcoming talks between Iraq and the UN Special Commission within the current round as decisive and important, since they are supposed to be concluded with a statement declaring a final closure on the file on banned weapons.

In an article today headlined "Important Talks Down the Road to Lifting the Unjust Blockade," the newspaper says that having this file closed means that Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 must be implemented. This paragraph provides for lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, the paper notes.

The paper affirms that Iraq has committed itself to implementing what has been imposed on it in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687. It adds that Iraq dealt seriously and positively with the UN Security Council, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], and the Special Commission. Iraq also succeeded in denying enemies the chance to fabricate problems and crises that seek to prolong the blockade.

The paper points out that the results of the July and September rounds of talks and what has been achieved in terms of Iraq's implementation of the obligations that have been imposed on it in accordance with Resolution 687 indicate that the "banned weapons" file will be finally closed during this round of talks. This clearly means that the UN Security Council will have to meet its obligations toward Iraq by immediately lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq as soon as Ekeus submits his report to the council.

The paper warns against the move that the United States, Britain, France, and Russia made by handing a standpoint letter to the Iraqi representative to the United Nations. The letter talks about the Special Commission's dealing with Iraq and gives—for known purposes—strange and illogical interpretations for Resolution 687, particularly Paragraph 22, the paper says.

The paper continues: This unjust position by the four Western nations, and their interpretation of Resolution 687 and allegation that this resolution is linked to other resolutions is considered an interference in the work of the Special Commission and IAEA and an attempt to impose trusteeship on them and the UN Security Council itself.

Concluding, the paper says that procrastination and attempts to prolong the blockade will be useless because the Iraqi people, who have endured and held fast for over three years, are capable of steadfastness and endurance for more months to come. For, irrespective of enemy attempts, the blockade must come to an end.

Deal With Palestinians on Lifting Embargo Denied

NC0110154193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1437 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (MENA)—A responsible Iraqi source has denied reports of "a deal" linking Iraq's support for the Gaza-Jericho agreement in return for lifting the blockade imposed on it by the United Nations. In a statement to a MENA correspondent, this source said that lifting the blockade is linked to the negotiations with the United Nations and is not at the expense of the Palestinian issue. The source also denied reports that a deal is being considered to convince Iraq to repatriate 400,000 Palestinians back to Iraq in return for lifting the economic embargo.

It is worth noting that Iraq is opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement on interim Palestinian self-rule.

Regime Reportedly 'Not Opposed' to Israeli-PLO Deal

PM0110110093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Sep 93 p 2

['Adnan Husayn report: "Tactical Reasons Preventing Official Announcement: Baghdad Secretly Supports Palestinian-Israeli Peace"]

[Text] London—Opposition Palestinian and Iraqi sources have revealed that the Iraqi Government has told the PLO that it supports the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement but does not want to announce this at present for tactical political considerations.

Palestinian sources close to the PLO leadership have said that Faruq Qaddumi Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, who visited Baghdad the day after the agreement was signed in Washington on 13 September, has received assurances from senior Iraqi officials that they are not opposed to the agreement, but they cannot reveal this position because of the political isolation the Iraqi regime has been experiencing since its occupation of Kuwait three years ago.

The sources added that the Iraqi embassies in Tunisia and Jordan pointed out to members of the PLO Executive Committee on two separate occasions later that the Baghdad regime supports the agreement, and that the two embassies requested understanding of the circumstances preventing official confirmation of this at present.

Iraqi newspapers expressed little opposition to the agreement, while Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf just registered his government's reservations about the agreement during the Arab foreign ministers' meeting held in Cairo the week before last.

The Palestinian sources in question believe that the Iraqi regime is seeking a political price for announcing its position in support of the agreement. According to the

sources, the price is for the PLO to use its influence and new ties at the Arab and international levels to bolster Iraq's endeavors to end the political isolation and economic blockade imposed on it since its invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

The sources said that Iraqi officials openly asked the Palestinian leadership to exert efforts in that direction. They also requested that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat discuss this issue with the leaders with whom he is going to meet during his current tour of some Arab and foreign capitals.

In similar information, Damascus-based Iraqi opposition sources have said that representatives of the Palestinian factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement told them that the Iraqi regime really supports the agreement. The sources said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the 10 factions, which are actively working to set up a Palestinian political framework opposed to the agreement and the PLO, made contacts with Iraqi opposition representatives in Damascus to inform them of their position on the agreement and to secure support for this position from Arab forces and governments. The Iraqi opposition sources added that the Palestinian oppositionists told them that the Iraqi Government refused to support their efforts and that it had informed the PLO leadership of its nonopposition to the agreement. Iraqi opposition sources pointed out that they do not consider themselves directly concerned with Palestinian internal affairs or a party to the dispute among Palestinians over their destiny and future.

Foreign Minister Meets Counterparts at UN

JN0210131593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0832 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, 2 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf had separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Venezuela, Pakistan, and Iran in New York last night.

The foreign minister discussed with Venezuelan Foreign Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich ways of promoting relations between Iraq and Venezuela at the OPEC.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf explained to the Venzuelan minister and Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar Iraq's clear stand on cooperation with the United Nations and its meeting of its obligations. He urged them, given the fact that their countries are UN Security Council member states, to work inside the council so the Security Council would meet its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with Resolution 687 and lift the iniquitous blockade imposed on Iraq.

The Venezuelan and Pakistani ministers expressed their countries' full understanding of Iraq's position and their appreciation for the development of relations between Iraq and the UN Special Commission.

The Iraqi foreign minister also met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf told an INA correspondent at the United Nations that he and the Iranian minister continued discussions on contacts between the two countries to resolve pending problems.

Oil Products Distribution Company Restructured

JN0110153193 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Sep 93 p 4

[By Nabil al-Wadi]

[Text] Baghdad—The Ministry of Oil has decided to restructure the Oil Products Distribution Company and replace it with three enterprises: The State Enterprise for the Distribution of Oil Products, the Gas Bottling State Enterprise, and the Pipelines State Enterprise.

An official source told AL-JUMHURIYAH that each of the three enterprises will be financially, administratively, and technically autonomous. The three bodies, AL-JUMHURIYAH observed, began their operations yesterday, and the ministry's move was prompted by a desire to achieve greater flexibility in the distribution process and to eliminate functional overlaps.

Peres Meets With Clinton, Jordanian Crown Prince

TA0110204693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Address by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres after a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal at the White House—live, in English]

[Text] Mr. President, Your Royal Highness. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, first of all for enabling us to return to what we used to be—brothers in history, and to what we should be—neighbors in economy. It is a very moving occasion, I think, for our people, and I hope for the rest of the Middle East. And under the very devoted and wise hand of the United States, I do believe that people on both sides of the Jordan River will have today a new hope and a new opportunity.

We have had the same father, Abraham. We share the same river, the Jordan. We have the same sea, the Red Sea. We are sharing the same treasure, which is called, unfortunately, the Dead Sea. All these are historic treasures. They were blessed with holiness. Now what we want to do is to translate a great historic tradition into a new economic endeavor. I think in a world that was so skeptical, the Clinton administration and the people in the Middle East are trying to show that we can do it differently, better, movingly, seriously, with great hope and great steps.

May the Lord bless all of us for serving him right, historically as well as politically. I would like also to thank the secretary of state, Mr. Christopher, for trying to do in his own quiet way to help us to build a new real drama in the annals of our region. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Calls on Arabs To End Boycott

TA0210185793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] After the tripartite meeting yesterday between Foreign Minister Peres, Crown Prince Hasan, and President Clinton, Minister Peres held a private meeting with the U.S. President. Our correspondent Elimelekh Ram notes that the meeting, scheduled to last 10 minutes, lasted more than an hour. Peres told Clinton that he believes the world today is more optimistic following the Middle East peace agreement, and noted that Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians need to make an economic plan to establish stability.

Regarding the negotiations with Syria, Peres said that Israel is willing to hold very serious talks with Syria, but stressed that the extent of withdrawal depends on the Syrian peace gestures.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 2 October carries a recorded report from Washington by Cony Lonn who says "Foreign Minister Peres and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan held their first formal meeting under the auspices of President Clinton. The men agreed Israel and Jordan should establish a joint economic committee, like the one agreed to between Israel and the PLO."

[Lonn adds that "after his private meeting with President Clinton, Peres told us that the new cooperation with Jordan is counter to the Arab boycott, since economic cooperation contradicts the boycott." When asked whether the Arab boycott is dead, Peres says: "I did not say so. I said that on the Jordanian gate and the Egyptian gate, it is dead. It is not enough. Because when Israel announced her change on the settlement policy, the Arabs said that they will change the Arab boycott, stop it. They said that we will recognize the PLO, and they will recognize Israel. We did our part; they have to do theirs."]

Comments on Talks, IDF Operation

TA0310093393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan on 3 October—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] We spoke with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is currently visiting the United States, approximately one hour ago. Our first question dealt with the statements made by Crown Prince Hasan, whom Foreign Minister Peres met with at the White House on 1 October. The two men, Peres and Hasan, agreed to establish a joint Jordanian-Israeli economic committee. However, several hours later in a press interview, the crown prince said that lifting the Arab boycott on Israel at this time would be tantamount to economic suicide by the Arab world. We started off by asking Shim'on Peres to explain this apparent contradiction.

[Peres] There are two issues. The development of the Jordan River area, the 'Arava, the Dead Sea, and the Red Sea, as well as the construction of airports, creation of industry, water and so forth. Second, I believe that anyone with eyes in his head must understand that from the economic aspect, we have already done or begun doing whatever we can. In other words, setting up a joint economic base for Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel. However, we must also keep the political structure in mind, because if these three factors do not mesh we will always be in a state of instability and danger.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, let us move on to discuss recent developments in the territories. Over the weekend, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] killed two fugitives and captured 16 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. The PLO was infuriated by this and has claimed that it constitutes a breach of its agreement with Israel. Is this indeed the case?

[Peres] No, no. The PLO was not infuriated. It merely expressed its protest, and that is understandable.

[Friedman] Was any understanding reached between the PLO and Israel in the course of the secret negotiations that Israel would discontinue its operations against fugitives in the territories?

[Peres] God forbid. On the contrary, there was an understanding that the PLO would also take action against terrorists. Look, there are no secret agreements. I repeat that everything has been made public.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, what about the Syrian track? President al-Asad is now saying that the chances for an agreement between Syria and Israel are smaller. What is your reaction to this assessment?

[Peres] Has al-Asad already published his autobiography? Why are there less chances? Is he about to start a war? Is this some kind of bet? Is Syria doing anyone a favor by making peace with Israel, or on the contrary, is Israel doing anyone a favor by making peace with Syria. Either both sides need this peace or neither country will make any effort to attain it. Any person who thinks that either al-Asad is doing us a favor, or that Israel is doing him a favor, does not really believe in peace between Israel and Syria. These statements have a declarative value. They are not gospel, nor should they be taken literally.

[Dan] So what kind of steps are now required on the Syrian track in order to promote the negotiations.

[Peres] First of all, we already have enough work cut out for us on the other tracks. We first have to finish work on the Palestinian track and successfully implement the agreement with the PLO. Second, we have to create a new Middle East. When I say this, I am not simply thinking out loud. We are about to realize this vision, and we will witness some very pleasant surprises.

[Dan] You seem to be in no hurry as far as regards the Syrians?

[Peres] No, I am in a great hurry. However, I am in no rush to dance to al-Asad's tune. I will not accept that. I think that it is now time for the Arabs to take a few steps in our direction. Some Arab leaders said they would end the Arab boycott if Israel stopped the settlements. We halted settlement activity, but they did not call off the boycott. Certain Arab leaders then said they would recognize Israel if we recognized the PLO. We recognized the PLO, but they did not follow through on their part. I see absolutely no reason in the world to be overly impressed by various statements made by Arab leaders or by assorted experts on Arab affairs. Things change in the Arab world, as well— the Arabs themselves, the Russians, the Americans, and the Israelis—the whole world is in a process of change. This is not a world for experts. This is a world for people with a keen sense for developments.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, at the end of week it was reported that Elyaqim Rubinstein, who had resigned as head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, would lead the team to the negotiations with Jordan. Why should an official who has expressed serious reservations about the agreement with the PLO continue to play a key role in the negotiations?

[Peres] Mr. Rubinstein has done a good job, which I very much appreciate. Nevertheless, I felt that some changes had to be made. I have no knowledge of any such decision, and I have no intention of commenting about an issue that I do not know about.

Possibility of Union With Palestinians Broached

TA0310095093 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Oct 93 p 5

[Report by Eldad Beck, Washington correspondent Natan Gutman, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israel and the PLO have discussed the possibility of establishing an Israeli-Palestinian union as a framework for the permanent arrangement. Western and Arab diplomatic sources told HADASHOT that the proposal was raised in the framework of the discussions which led to the Oslo agreement.

According to the sources, Israel's position was that the union should be made in the framework of a federation, which would prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Palestinians, on the other hand, preferred union in the framework of a confederation, which would include an independent Palestinian state.

Arab sources say that a union between Israel and a future Palestinian entity would pave the way to solving the problem of Jerusalem without having to divide it up. One of the ideas raised in this connection was to turn Jerusalem into a federative capital with a special administrative status, not unlike Washington D.C. Another possibility, raised by Egyptian officials, but apparently unacceptable to Israel so far, is to move the political capitals of Israel and the Palestinian entity away from Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, there are increasing signs that Israel will implement a partial withdrawal in south Lebanon over the next few weeks as a goodwill gesture aimed at Syria. This will be done before the two countries reach public agreement on a joint declaration of principles.

Mubarak Tells Rabin Remarks on Golan 'Distorted'

TA0110122693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Text] On 29 September, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a personal message designed to correct remarks attributed to him regarding Israel's consent to withdraw from the Golan Heights within the next four months.

Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni conveyed the message to the prime minister on the eve of the Sukkoth holiday. Mubarak said in the message that his remarks in an interview with an Arab daily "had been taken out of context and distorted."

At the time the remarks were quoted, Rabin expressed surprise at Mubarak's observations on the Golan Heights issue and asserted that they were "the Egyptian president's personal view."

IDF Continues 'Hunt' for Hamas Activists in Gaza

Army Kills 2, Captures 16

TA0210185993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] The Israeli Army today launched a wide-scale hunt for militant members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fundamentalist organization in the Gaza Strip. The Army said it killed two suspected terrorists and captured 16 others, belonging to the military arm of Hamas, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam. The two were killed when soldiers exploded a bunker in which they were apparently hiding. They have been identified as Hamid Salam Hasa, the leader of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam from the al-Burayj refugee camp, and Musa Sawwad, an activist also from al-Burayj.

Official military sources say the operation was aimed at directly harming 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, which carried out attacks on Israeli soldiers and local residents. During the operation, security forces found a large cache of arms, including machine guns, rifles, shoulder fired missiles, roadside charges, Molotov cocktails, hand grenades, and ammunition. They also found a large amount of money and drugs.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says various methods were used during the operation, including breaking into buildings in which suspects were hiding. Gaza residents say that soldiers fired antitank missiles at several houses in the al-Burayj and Jabalyah refugee camps. They said the rockets caused extensive damage. Palestinian sources also said soldiers shot and wounded five Arabs in various clashes in the Gaza Strip.

IDF Commander Vows Continued Action

TA0310055893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Yom Tov Sami', the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip, said that since the signing of the agreement with the PLO, terrorist activities by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have been characterized by suicide operations. Among other terrorist acts, a Hamas activist was killed preparing a car bomb, and a man wearing an explosive charge attempted to enter the Gaza police station before exploding.

In an interview with our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, Brig. Gen. Sami' said that despite the new characteristics, there was greater calm in the Gaza Strip because many organizations had ceased their operations against IDF troops.

As for the IDF activity in the Gaza Strip yesterday, Brig. Gen. Sami' stressed that as long as the Army remained in charge of the area, its mission was to continue to capture armed fugitives before they could carry out terrorist attacks. He emphasized that since the Hamas squads were continuing to carry out attacks, the Army had to keep striking at them. [passage omitted]

Continued Anti-Hamas Operations Vowed

TA0310164593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, revealed today that the Shin Bet, Israel Police, and the security forces have uncovered three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads responsible for terrorist attacks in the Hebron area. The squads consisted of 19 terrorists who participated in numerous attacks, including the kidnaping and murder of serviceman Yaron Hen at the al-Ram Junction about a month ago; the murder of serviceman Tziyon Alqobi near Negohot; and the murder of three Jewish settlers. The squads operated in the Jerusalem, Hebron, and Gilo areas.

The security forces are still hunting for three missing members of these squads.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the prime minister revealed these facts in the course of his first tour of Judaea and Samaria since the signing of the agreement with the PLO.

Rabin added that he had instructed the security forces to take action against every terrorist element and to thwart their plans.

[A similar report by Golan Yokhpaz on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 3 October carries the recorded Rabin remarks: "We act against terrorism and violence because it is our duty. We do not coordinate our actions with anyone; it is our own responsibility. We will continue taking action first and foremost against those who perpetrated or planned terrorist actions." Yokhpaz further cites Rabin as saying that "the Army will allocate great resources mainly for the pursuit of squads affiliated with Hamas, which opposes the peace process."]

Rabin on 'Impressive' Operation

TA0310181793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Oct 93

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Hebron on 3 October; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles, processed from the Hebrew—recorded in progress]

[Text] [Rabin] ...during my visit here I was told about the conclusion of an impressive operation by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], Israel Police, and, naturally, the Shin Bet, which exposed a murderous squad of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] that perpetrated several terror acts, starting from the region of al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, to the vicinity of Hebron. I regard this a first-class achievement because there is no doubt in my mind that whoever opposes the agreement—meaning Hamas and other rejectionist organizations—will make efforts to carry out terror attacks against Israelis, the IDF, and other Israeli security personnel with the intention of harming the implementation of the agreements we have reached.

[Israel Television's Yoni Ben-Menahem] Will you continue hunting Fatah fugitives despite the fact that they no longer carry out attacks against Israel?

[Rabin] I suggest that the issues of what will happen and when be clarified during the negotiations. In the negotiations on the implementation of the first phase of Gaza and Jericho, when they start, additional issues will be raised, such as their prisoners and detainees, information about our POW's and MIA's, and implementing the agreement in a way that will provide security.

For our part, we will be mainly guided by the question of how to implement the Gaza-Jericho First plan while providing for the security of Israeli settlements and any Israelis traveling there. From the Palestinian point of view, the main problem will naturally be the ability to seize control over the management of life, certainly to promote a solution to the economic and social problems of the residents in the territories, and in Gaza even more so.

Many and diverse issues will be raised in the framework of the negotiations, and it is inevitable that some of the issues will also address the question you have posed, and we will discuss them then.

[Ben-Menahem] The PLO has been speaking of confidence-building measures between Israel and the PLO that would include the release of a large number of intifadah detainees in the coming days, perhaps in the middle of this month. Can you confirm this information?

[Rabin] I repeat: We are through with the era of gestures. Today, we have reached an agreement of principles. This agreement has to be implemented. Everything is connected. The negotiations—now and in a few months—on Gaza-Jericho First will be held in parallel with and are part of the negotiations about the construction of the entire system that used to be called autonomy and now—since the Madrid conference—is called the system for the arrangement of Palestinian self-government in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Sources: PLO-Tunis Told of Operation

TA0410093893 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Oct 93 p 10

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpt] Over the weekend, Israel relayed a special message to the PLO-Tunis hinting that it intends to launch an operation against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitives in the Gaza Strip. This was reported yesterday by senior defense establishment officials.

The message did not include details regarding the time or place of the operation, but it included a list of the wanted Fatah, Hamas, and other terrorists the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is hunting in the territories and noted that the efforts to capture them will continue.

The sources also reported that Israel hinted to the PLO that it would be willing to reach a compromise with fugitives who were not directly involved in the killing of Israelis and who would turn themselves in to the security forces. Yesterday the sources called on the fugitives to turn themselves in, promising that fugitives who have not committed murders will be treated according to understandings that will be reached with the PLO. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Sweep Violates Agreement

TA0310110393 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Oct 93 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed and David Regev]

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday delivered a protest to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin over yesterday's operation by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip. 'Arafat demanded that Rabin immediately put a halt to the arrests, which he asserted, constituted a violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The message to Rabin was delivered by Jerusalem attorney Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, at 'Arafat's personal request.

This is the PLO's second official protest to Israel with regard to the IDF's activities against wanted activists in the territories. A message of protest was submitted four days ago following the IDF's operation in Qabatiyah, in which the leaders of the Fatah's Black Panther gang were captured.

Apparently, by means of these protests, 'Arafat is attempting to prove to Hamas that he is the leader of all the Palestinians, and not just of the Fatah organization. [passage omitted]

'Fugitive' Issues Appeal

TA0310142593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Oct 93 p 5

[Report by Sulayman al-Shafa'i]

[Text] "I never killed an Israeli. Therefore, according to the peace agreement, you may not shoot at me. I ask you to honor the agreement you signed." This is part of a

letter sent to the press yesterday by a Gaza fugitive, one of the commanders of the Fatah Hawks military arm in the Gaza Strip.

In his letter, Anwar Qadih, the commander of a Khan Yunus area squad, appeals to peace-supporting Knesset members, asking them to pressure Prime Minister Rabin to issue an order ending the manhunt for fugitives. "We support the peace agreement signed by our legitimate leadership," the letter says. "We received instructions to stop firing at Israeli military and civilian targets. Recently we came across one of the most classified lists of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip. It is a list of the wanted men with an X noted next to some of the names, indicating that this man should be shot and killed even if he is not carrying a weapon." The classified list is attached to Qadih's letter that was faxed to Israeli papers. "There is an X next to my name," Qadih notes, "even though I have never killed any Israelis. I urge peace supporters and Knesset members to work for the implementation of true peace between us and the Israelis. If peace is to be honored, all the Israeli intelligence execution lists must be canceled."

Car Bomb Explodes at Bet El Junction; 27 Injured

TA0410075393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Report by Golan Yokhpaz—live]

[Excerpt] I am standing right at the Bet El junction where an explosion took place this morning, and I can update you that 27 people were injured in the explosion. Of them, 23 were slightly injured, most suffering from shock, and four suffered moderate wounds.

Earlier this morning, a No. 78 bus stopped at the bus stop to drop off passengers, when a car rammed its front. The car, driven by a terrorist, exploded, and the terrorist was killed on the spot. Currently, a large number of Army and police forces are combing the area. All the injured have been evacuated to Jerusalem hospitals. [passage omitted]

Shahal Comments on Blast

TA0410082493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Moshe Shahal, police and energy and infrastructure minister, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Dan] Minister Shahal, this morning it appears as if Russian democracy works in quite undemocratic ways.

[Shahal] Yes, very much so. I would say this is the news drama of the day. Anyone following the events there would find it hard to believe that the superpower that frightened the entire world for 70 years is now engaged in a drama typical of third-rate Hollywood movies with the assault on the White House and the area around it. It is simply hard to believe.

[Dan] You certainly must view this not only as a movie but must see other significance to it, do you not?

[Shahal] Yes, of course. It has many implications, but also a great emotional impact. We were raised on stories about the Russian Revolution. It used to be one of the great utopias of this century.

[Friedman] Minister Shahal, yesterday and this morning we heard the United States, as well as Britain, Japan, and France, express their unequivocal support for Boris Yeltsin. Can you tell us anything along these lines on behalf of the Israeli Government?

[Shahal] I believe the Israeli Government has no part in this matter and considers it a domestic Russian affair. Clearly, we have good reasons not to express stands on this issue. The primary one is that there are Jews in Russia and the surrounding autonomous regions. Furthermore, as a politician watching the events from the sidelines, I would say that the Western support for Yeltsin is based on its familiarity with his opposition. This is a coalition of veteran communists and extreme nationalistic, right-wing groups....

[Friedman, interrupting] Speaking of extreme groups, we would like to address the other topic of our news this morning.

[Dan] Yes, we have just reported that a car bomb attack in which 13 people were slightly injured took place in Bet El this morning. Could you give us additional facts, as you know them?

[Shahal] The facts are that a car bomb driven by a local Arab hit a bus at a soldiers bus stop near Bet El in a terrorist suicide attack. As you reported, luckily the damage was not great. All the evaluations of the security services—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Shin Bet, and the Israel Police—speak of the possibility of extremist elements trying to carry out suicide terrorist attacks. They may be carried out by fugitives who are being hunted by our security personnel or by individuals who initiate attacks, even if they are as primitive as in the case of the car bomb that exploded in Gaza, killing the perpetrator. I view these operations as part of the expected struggles in the field, stemming from the differences among the Palestinian factions, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, as well as private initiatives. Still, in most cases, the acts have been perpetrated by hard-core fugitives who are being captured by the security forces.

[Dan] It appears, however, that it is very hard to prevent such terror attacks.

[Shahal] It is hard to prevent such operations. Some are spontaneous, meaning that they are not planned or carried out by organized squads or groups but are the initiative of some individual. Certainly, intelligence will not help in such cases. Nevertheless, we may assume that those opposing the current process, those opposing any type of arrangement, will try to sabotage it. They know the Israeli

public is very sensitive to terror attacks. The security forces are aware of this and are making commendable efforts to thwart them. Over the past several days, they have scored great achievements. I think the public should be aware of the fact that the Hamas terrorists who were captured in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria were among the most dangerous fugitives, as are the Fatah Hawks, whose leader carried out several dozen murders.

[Friedman] Thank you, Minister Shahal.

Senior PLO Official Reportedly To Visit

TA0310110693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Oct 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has approved the visit to Israel of Ahmad Abu-al-'Ala', one of the PLO's leaders. This will be the first visit of a senior PLO member in Israel.

Abu-al-'Ala', 56, was the PLO representative who conducted the negotiations with Israel in Oslo and who signed the declaration of principles. Abu-al-'Ala', whose full name is Ahmad 'Ali Sulayman Quray', is the head of Fatah's economic department and member of the organization's central committee. Since the beginning of the peace talks, following the Madrid conference, he has been in charge of the multilateral talks, although his main interest is in economic and social issues.

His visit to Israel will not be done on the basis of an official invitation by the Israeli Government. The way for an unofficial invitation was found via an economic conference to be hosted by GLOBES during the end of the month. Official sources yesterday said: "This is the most elegant way to bring to Israel one of the PLO's senior leaders who was directly involved in the peace process and who contributed to its advancement."

The proposal to invite Abu-al-'Ala' to Israel was submitted to Rabin. The Foreign Ministry, whose senior officials are very familiar with Abu-al-'Ala', fully supported the visit. Defense establishment officials who will play a central role in the negotiations over IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Civil Administration withdrawal in Gaza and Jericho were also involved in the consultations. Nobody voiced any opposition to the visit. Yasir 'Arafat is also reported to have approved the visit.

It is to be assumed that in addition to Abu-al-'Ala's participation in the economic conference, he will participate in talks regarding various political and economic issues. Abu-al-'Ala' has good connections with economic ministries in various European countries. One of the issues with which he is currently occupied is how to make the best use of the economic aid offers to the Palestinians in the territories.

Israel has several ideas in this issue, but it does not want to appear as though it is forcing itself on the Palestinians in any way, because the Palestinians are extremely sensitive about Israeli superiority in various spheres—although they too are aware of the fact that the peace process cannot be advanced without close economic coordination.

On the agenda are various important issues such as the passage of workers from the territories to Israel, aid to refugees, taxation, joint projects, and problems relating to water resources. The talks with Abu-al-'Ala' also go along with the decision reached in the meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and Crown Prince Hasan in Washington to establish a joint Israeli-Jordanian economic committee.

In addition to the decision regarding Abu-al-'Ala's visit, behind-the-scenes contacts are being pursued between Israel and the PLO regarding the expected appointments for the delegations that will conduct the negotiations over withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and Israeli redeployment in the rest of the West Bank.

It looks as though each side is waiting for the other to make the first move. Neither Rabin nor 'Arafat are hurrying to appoint the delegation heads. Each side wants to see what the level of the other side's delegation will be. The security aspects of the negotiations have already been allotted to Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF Planning Branch. It is clear, however, that the security issue will be only one of many to be raised in the framework of the withdrawal. The evacuation of the Civil Administration involves complicated discussions and difficult negotiations, over which Maj. Gen. Dayan will not be in charge. [passage omitted]

IDF Denies Border Fence With Lebanon Moved

TA0310124293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by army affairs correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman yesterday reported that the IDF had no knowledge of any recent alterations along Israel's border with Lebanon.

This denial comes in the wake of claims made yesterday by Lebanese security sources that Israel had moved a section of its border fence with Lebanon 200 meters northwards into Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Any moving of the border fence could lead to tension in the peace negotiations between Lebanon and Israel which are currently taking place in Washington.

Likud Opposes Announcement on Aid to Palestinians

TA0110184193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has announced that Israel will grant the Palestinians $25 million in aid, with another $5 million in government loan guarantees.

The spokesman for the Likud has protested the move, charging that the Rabin government will be transferring money to PLO institutions in the territories. In a published announcement, the Likud says the government has no right to give to the Palestinians money paid by Israeli taxpayers, money which should be supplied instead by the Arab states which have pledged aid to the Palestinians.

Der'i: SHAS Opposed to Full Withdrawal From Golan

TA0310070293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Knesset Member Arye Der'i has clarified that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] does not support a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for a peace agreement with Syria. Der'i told Qol Yisra'el that SHAS would demand the implementation of security arrangements, and would insist that no settlements be dismantled. SHAS was also proposing a leasing arrangement with Syria.

Der'i noted that he would be meeting with defense establishment officials this week and would hold consultations on the SHAS position with regard to the agreement of principles with the PLO. The position paper he is currently formulating on this matter will serve as the basis for any coalition agreement with the Labor party.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that among other issues, the document will stipulate the following points: No to the establishment of a Palestinian state; no Palestinian right of return; the unity of Jerusalem; maintaining the security of the settlers and of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops; and freedom of operation for the IDF in the territories in order to foil terrorist attacks. [passage omitted]

Sarid: Some Settlements May Have To Be Abandoned

TA0310072093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid believes some of the Jewish settlements in the territories will have to be abandoned as part of a final peace agreement, whilst others will remain but under foreign sovereignty.

Speaking to kibbutz members north of the Dead Sea, Sarid said he does not oppose the creation of a Palestinian state, but such a state should be demilitarized.

Crown Prince Hasan Continues Washington Visit

Meeting With Peres, Clinton Detailed

JN0110194693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the signing of an agenda by the representatives of the Jordanian and Israeli Governments', and out of Jordan's strong faith in the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on just bases that guarantee the restoration of all the Palestinian Arab people's rights in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy—embodied by UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and 338, which constitute the terms of reference on which the Arabs unanimously agreed at the Madrid peace conference—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has responded positively to the U.S. President's request to hold a tripartite meeting at the White House with President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

During this 20-minute meeting, his highness reviewed Jordan's constant stand on achieving a just and comprehensive peace that will satisfy and please future generations. Based on Jordan's higher interests and the constants of Jordan's clear policy, which avoids surprises, to promote relations with the United States, which will enable it to play its legal, political, and moral role in its capacity as the main sponsor of the Middle East peace process, and in order to contribute to implementing the Madrid conference' terms of reference, the meeting, which was held at the White House today, will push the peace process toward new prospects of harmony with the concerned parties' commitment to achieving tangible material and practical results, particularly the United States and Israel.

At this meeting, His Highness Prince Hasan stressed that a just and comprehensive peace goes far beyond protocols and media clamor, addressing facts on the ground, which include the rights of refugees and their suffering over long decades in accordance with UN resolutions, as well as the region's current problems, which include issues of development, water, unemployment, and security.

His Highness Prince Hasan emphasized that a comprehensive peace means that it should include all of the region's peoples. The crown prince clarified that it is not new to see the Jordanian stand committed to regional and international peace issues, beginning with its armed forces' participatior in peacekeeping operations in conflicts in Cambodia, Croatia, and Angola, and ending with Jordan's recognition of all international resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, and its support for all international initiatives related to this conflict.

His highness noted that the important historic achievement in the Middle East is the realization that a just and comprehensive peace should prevail in the Middle East, that the region's peoples should enjoy the fruit and positive results of peace in a manner that spreads justice and prosperity, and that the logic of superiority and the idea that force is a security guarantee should be eliminated and replaced by returning rights to their owners as a sign of commitment to the land-for-peace principle.

Hasan Comments After Meeting

JN0110212493 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Address by Crown Prince Hasan following a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the White House in Washington on 1 October—recorded]

[Text] Mr. President, foreign minister, ladies and gentlemen of the press: There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken of the flood, leads on to fortune, omitted all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries—on such a full sea are we now afloat. The voyage we have embarked upon, Mr. President, is guided by important landmarks, the common agenda, including the rights of refugees according to international law, the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, and its implementation within the agreed timetable. But, what is more important is the commitment to momentum, and participating today, through your kind hospitality, at the donors conference, I was heartened to feel that the commitment to peace in the Middle East is truly universal. We hope that this commitment and this partnership can be maintained through your personal interest and guidance, Mr. President. And to that effect, I would endorse the fervent desire for realizing the functional role that Jordan seeks to play. I am happy to welcome the concept of an economic working group within the context of our search for peace, the peace process, and, indeed, to commit myself to whenever and wherever possible furthering the humanitarian needs of people without discrimination in Jordan, in the Palestinian context, and in the wider regional context.

I hope that interstate agreements on these principles, these early functional steps, will lead, in the months ahead and indeed in the years ahead, towards a consolidation of a mutual understanding of shared peace in a regional community where hope is shared by all on the ground. But I have to say in a word of caution, that to the people of the Middle East, on the ground, in our cities, in our villages, wheresoever and whomsoever they may be, in our refugee camps, in the occupied territories, and in Jordan, in Jerusalem, where there are believers effectively of the Abrahamic faiths share in their vision and their hope for peace, there is much to be done. And I believe that we have to commit ourselves to a work ethic for peace rather more than further opportunities to share, before the camera, our commitment in statements which, I hope, will be realized. But, again, I would stress that hope needs to be effectively realized through commitment and hard work on the ground. I thank you Mr. President, thank you foreign minister.

Addresses Donor Countries

JN0210142393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 93 pp 1, 5

["Full text" of 1 October address by Crown Prince Hasan to donor countries meeting in Washington D.C.]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, in two hours, the conference to support Middle East peace will be over, and we will walk away from this room. Those whose lives will evermore be changed by our decisions cannot walk away. On the streets of Amman and Tel Aviv, in the mosques, churches and synagogues of Jerusalem, in the refugee camps of al-Shati' near Gaza and al-Duhayshah by Bethlehem, the story of peace is just beginning.

Jordan welcomes this conference. It is pragmatic to determine how the fruits of peace can be enjoyed by the peoples of the Middle East, and timely in view of the gathering momentum towards a just and comprehensive settlement.

Jordan supports the PLO-Israel accord as a significant step on the road to regional reconciliation. Indeed, we had already agreed on an agenda for our own talks with Israel. We now look forward to negotiating issues of substance, such as the vital issue of refugees, on the basis of international law.

Jordan, nearest to the core of the conflict, has shouldered an enormous human load. We have given shelter to three waves of displaced Palestinians—in 1948, 1967, and 1991. These refguees—about 1.7 million individuals—account today for one third of Jordan's population. Less than 300,000 are still in camps: 300,000 too many. For Jordan is committed to providing all of its population with the stable and decent environment that goes hand in hand with peace-making and human resource development. Our citizens, whether of Palestinian or Jordanian origin, enjoy civil and human rights equally and participate as equals in our democratisation process. But our human policies have demanded greater sacrifices from our people.

As a consequence of the conflict, Jordan faces a debt overhang of about $7 billion one of the highest per capita rates in the world. The Gulf crisis cost our national economy $9 billion, a heavy blow to a country with a GNP (gross national product) half that figure. Yet we continue to enforce U.N. sanctions against Iraq. The exceptional support of the world community is desperately needed if Jordan is to keep shouldering its regional responsibilities and move towards peace, reconstruction and prosperity.

Jordan will do everything in its power to ensure the success of arrangements for Palestinian interim self-government. Indeed, we have already extended our assistance in institution-building and training. Our commitment is not in doubt. In 1986, we tried to start a development effort to support the people of the occupied territories. The world did not listen to our warning that the economic situation there was politically dangerous. But we do not want to dwell on the past. We want to applaud the fact that today, seven years later, leading members of the world community are gathered to answer our call. Let us now work together to rebuild the occupied territories, and the other parts of the region that have been devastated by conflict.

Although the Palestine question has always been the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the entire region has suffered. Peace, then, cannot be piecemeal. It must be comprehensive if it is to endure. the reality of interdependence in all fields requires this. If we are to fashion a commonwealth of hope on our ancient soil, all must participate. All must have a say in shaping a new regional order, under-pinned by trans-national, cooperative, holistic security, and all must be given the chance, and the tools, to play their part in this historic endeavour.

It is our blessng and our burden to live in such extraordinary times. The decisions made today will echo across the world, and down through history. The peoples of the Middle East are depending upon us, generations to come are suspended on our word. Let us be worthy of them; let us give them a chance to taste the fruits of peace. For though we can all walk away from this room, not one of us can walk away from these responsibilities.

Meets With World Bank Group

JN0210195193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] As part of His Royal Highness Prince Hasan's visit to the United States, his highness met today with a World Bank delegation. The following report sheds light on the activities of His Highness Prince Hasan in Washington:

His Highness Prince Hasan received (K. Wetzer), vice president of the World Bank, and his assistants at his Washington residence this morning. They discussed Jordan's foreign debt, especially U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement about the status of Jordan's foreign debt.

During the meeting, it was decided to entrust a committee comprising prominent international figures in the economic field with studying Jordan's status, presenting appropriate recommendations on its needs, and determining mutual projects within the context of proposed regional cooperation.

The attendees addressed Jordan's foreign debt and the need to reconsider it in light of recent developments in the region to enable Jordan to pursue its economic development plans. These plans aim at reducing the burden of Jordan's budget and its trade balance and increasing investment opportunities to address unemployment and poverty.

The meeting was attended for the Jordanian side by Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz and Finance Minister Sami Qammuh.

Afterward, His Royal Highness Prince Hasan held a news conference in Washington, during which he asserted the constant principles of Jordan's position on the Palestine question, pointing out that he did not come to Washington to sign a treaty or an agreement or to conduct negotiations.

His highness reaffirmed that Jordan is committed to achieving a just, comprehensive peace on all Arab-Israeli tracks. His highness added that international financing and spending to develop the region should not be geared toward infrastructure and services but toward the development of human resources.

On the Jordanian parliamentary elections, his highness said holding the elections on time confirms that Jordan adheres to its democratic approach. He noted that the Middle East order should not exclude anybody.

Assessing a statement by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Jordan's indebtedness, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, head of Jordan's Information Bureau in Washington, said:

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] Jordan has had to cope with many burdens as a result of three emigrations since 1948. Jordan has managed to absorb 1,400,000 of 1,700,000 refugees who have come to Jordan since 1948, without receiving any foreign aid. Yesterday, President Clinton said for the first time that the United States thinks Jordan's foreign debt is heavy and should be reduced, adding that the United States supports this approach and that it will take many steps in this regard. We, of course, hope to be able to talk to the United States about reducing foreign debt—due to the United States and to other nations. [end recording]

Holds News Conference 2 Oct

JN0310095993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the conference for providing aid to support Middle East peace showed real commitment toward supporting the Palestinian self-rule. He added that pumping funds to establish an infrastructure in the occupied territories will be a vital contribution to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said that this great effort still needs to show how these funds can change people's lives on the ground.

In a news conference held in Washington yesterday evening, his highness said that Jordan opened its doors to three waves of refugees—in 1948, 1967, and 1991; the number of these refugees totaled 1,700,000. He noted that Jordan accommodated 1,400,000 of these refugees, and still awaits compensation. Jordan has the right to receive such compensation in accordance with the international law. In this regard, his highness asserted that failure to tackle the demographic situation regionally could result in suicide for the peace process.

Regarding his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, his highness said: We did not come here to negotiate, nor did we come to talk about an agreement. We only came at the invitation of President Clinton to stress Jordan's position in terms of its commitment to the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace. We are committed to continuing the momentum to promote the peace process within the framework of UN resolutions.

His highness pointed out that the most important point highlighted in the meeting was the agreement to form a Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. economic committee. This committee will work as part of the bilateral Israeli-Jordanian track in the peace process, and will be tasked with addressing vital economic issues, including projects that could benefit our region and peoples. There is concern, however, that such projects cannot be implemented without a peace treaty. For this reason, there is a pressing need to provide a motive that would not be linked to outside influence.

On how fast the Jordanian-Israeli track is moving, and its relationship with other tracks, his highness said: When we talk about the concept of a prosperous triangle—trade, water, and people—we are aware that we cannot sit back and wait until a final peace treaty is concluded. We will proceed with our efforts to promote substantive issues. This is because a peace treaty is in itself a political treaty.

With regard to the Arab boycott of Israel, he said that this boycott could be lifted gradually during the next decade. This, however, should be in return for something. He affirmed that a complete lifting of the boycott could result in economic suicide. Moreover, there are many issues which need to be considered. As far as Jordan is concerned, this includes the impact of political economy in terms of demography and resources, he added.

On parliamentary elections, his highness said that the decision to proceed with these elections as scheduled is a clear sign that all sons of the Jordanian people are welcome to participate in the democratic process, whether in good or bad times.

Regarding Jerusalem, his highness noted that this issue has three aspects: The political aspect, sovereignty, and supervision of religious affairs. Thus, Jerusalem remains an issue whose status will be determined in the final phase.

On the issue of confederation, his highness said that there is much that needs to be considered in terms of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. A final decision, however, can be made when the Palestinians are able to freely exercise all their rights on their national soil.

Regarding relations among the Arab states, his highness said: We are facing the problem of personalizing the positions taken during the Gulf war. We are living in a world that changes quickly, and we should be sufficiently mature whether in the case of rejection or acceptance, he added.

Tripartite White House Meeting Viewed

JN0210120493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Oct 93 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "For the Sake of a Just and Comprehensive Peace"]

[Text] Throughout the various phases and along the lengthy and branching path of the Middle East peace process, our Jordanian principles have been, and continue to be, landmarks. Our principles are clear positions which go beyond formal protocols and media limelight. They call for a just and comprehensive peace, which would entrench the pillars of security, stability, justice, prosperity, and development for all regional states. Our principles also stress the commitment to international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Based on these principles, Jordan has played its effective and vanguard role in the peace process, and supported Arab rights, led by the Palestinian people's rights on their national soil. This support began with entrenching the Palestinian identity, and included the provision of an umbrella which enabled the Palestinian people's representatives to discuss their own cause in the negotiating process unleashed in Madrid. Jordan also committed itself to a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict without separate deals, partial solutions, or sellout.

The Jordanian policy, which is based on national and pan-Arab principles, is clear and frank, and avoids surprises. Thus, any step taken on this path will emanate from a definite Jordanian concern for promoting the peace process toward its real objectives, and enhancing the commitment by the parties concerned to achieving practical and positive results. This would bring about a comprehensive peace, based on justice and accepted by the generations, and would also achieve security, serenity, prosperity, and equity away from the tendencies toward extremism and hegemony and away from the logic of superiority and control.

Within this context, the tripartite meeting held at the White House yesterday was a Jordanian response to an invitation from U.S. President Clinton. The meeting sought to clarify the Jordanian commitment to achieving a comprehensive peace based on justice—peace which would address all regional issues and the real situation on the ground. The meeting also sought to promote the effective U.S. position in the peace process, which would return rights to owners and guarantee Israel's commitment to the binding bases of peace and to the land-for-peace principle.

This meeting was also an opportunity in which His Highness Crown Prince Hasan explained the principles of the Jordanian position and its comprehensive vision. This vision puts what has been accomplished on the path, through the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, within the framework of the current efforts designed to address all regional issues, including the humanitarian and demographic dimension, the refugees' rights, and the issues of development, water, unemployment, security, and other issues. This is because peace cannot be consolidated by political agreements per se or by holding tripartite or collective meetings, but through radically tackling all factors, results, and dimensions of the conflict.

Within the framework of achieving an objective, ceremonies or protocols are not important. They do not promote mutual confidence. We are aware that both promoting this confidence and enhancing the peace march can only be realized through a real solution which would end the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories, regain the Palestinian people's full rights on their occupied territories, and resolve all regional issues on the basis of justice, equity, and comprehensiveness. Only this can achieve peace and consolidate its pillars.

Meeting Termed 'Creative Response'

JN0310125093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Oct 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "A Creative Response to Challenges"]

[Text] We view the White House meeting, which was arranged by the Clinton administration, as one of the outstanding manifestations of Jordanian diplomacy, which has always been characterized with clarity and courage.

At this meeting, we presented a host of major issues which have always been of concern to us. Under no circumstances can we turn our backs on such issues based on any pretext or for fear of any consideration.

Because we realize that we have rights and just demands, we have not hesitated to do our part and to assume our duties toward both our national Jordanian issues and our pan-Arab issues, including the Palestine question, which, in many ways, is a national Jordanian issue.

During the discussions, we have raised the refugee issue, not as a host country like other sisterly countries, but as a country that has carried heavy burdens imposed by three major migrations, toward which the international community should play its part.

At the same table of discussions, we have raised the Jerusalem issue for direct negotiations. This is in view of the special status of this holy city in our national, pan-Arab, and Islamic conscience. Its future is as much our concern as it is the concern of the Palestinians and all Arabs and Muslims.

Above all, we have important and urgent national issues, with which we deal with all seriousness and consider to be our utmost priority. These include a wide range of issues, such as development, foreign debt, the environment, and other issues that concern us and our future generations.

The Washington meeting was a strong indication of Jordan's adherence to its role and of its ability to be in control of the changes around it. The meeting was a creative response to the challenges of the current stage, in the midst of which Jordan stands and strongly participates in creating its facts, which tolerate no procrastination, disguise, or hesitation.

'Vague' Media Reporting Criticized

JN0310133293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Oct 93 p 26

["Spotlight" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "An Important Event"]

[Text] The White House meeting between Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the presence of U.S. President Clinton was an important and pivotal event in the life of the Middle East. The importance of this meeting cannot be diminished by the vague way in which our media and press reported the meeting.

We cannot but shed light on this important event. Evading this responsibility or carrying out written and political maneuvers about it cannot alter the fact that this event did happen, and that it had great significance and big objectives. We, along with the Jordanian public opinion, have the right to learn about these objectives and the next step for which this meeting has paved the way.

It is clear that we, along with the entire Arab region, are living amid profound changes which are akin to a political and ideological coup. The rejectionist Arab terminology calls this "the fall of the links of Arab steadfastness as part of the conflict with Zionism and the West". According to official Arab concepts, including Jordan, however, a practical translation of this state of affairs requires quick work to gain a political and economic position on the map of the new regional and world changes.

The crown prince's meeting at the White House and his attendance of the donor conference at the U.S. State Department may have reflected a Jordanian initiative. Perhaps the Jordanian decisionmaker believed that this was the right time and place for such an initiative in order to give more prominence to Jordanian issues at international debating tables, such as the issues of refugees, development, indebtedness, security, and other concerns of Jordanian politics as part of the mechanism of solutions which are developing quickly after opening the files of both partial and comprehensive settlements of the [Arab-Israeli] conflict.

We are now on the threshold of a new national action phase and fateful decisions. Such decisions will be the most important since Jordan was established. Everyone in this country has the right to know what is happening and planned, whether through our media or through clear statements by officials.

Only with such clarity can everyone with an opinion see what is proposed and what the challenges are. This will ultimately help build both a solid Jordanian negotiating position and a Jordanian political position in a world that seeks to arrange the region's affairs without seriously considering Jordan's requirements, role, importance, and interests.

Once again, Prince Hasan's meetings in Washington are important and detailed, and their importance cannot be minimized by the phrase "Shim'on Peres joined the meeting", which occupied the headlines of our media and press. What is taking place falls within the framework of direct negotiations with Israel—negotiations which are still at square one after two years of talks. What is happening is also within the context of comprehensive international arrangements for the region through "the multilateral conference". It is important for us to explain to the Jordanian public opinion what objectives we seek to achieve amid these continued changes and arrangements.

It is the task of media men and politicians in this phase to shed light on all aspects of events, acquaint the public opinion with the realities and policies, and permit overt interaction among the different opinions in a way that would serve the national and pan-Arab interests as part of the democratic dialogue.

Al-Majali Explains Decision Not To Postpone Elections

JN0110205293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by radio correspondent Randah Habib in Amman, carried within the "The Event" program; date not given]

[Text] [Habib] Mr. Prime Minister: Jordan has decided to proceed with the parliamentary elections as scheduled, despite talk about the possibility of postponing these elections. How was this decision made, and what are its dimensions and background?

[Al-Majali] First, we must remember that there was a decision by the Council of Ministers setting a date for the elections and a royal decree to this effect was issued. Then, the various political parties and forces in the country spoke about the possibility of postponing the elections, noting the reasons for this. Other parties spoke about the need to proceed with the process as scheduled. The Jordanian Government did not issue any decision other than the first one, setting the date for the elections. Therefore, there was no need for a new decision, and the first decision remained valid and unchanged.

[Habib] Jordanian officials, however, spoke about serious considerations to postpone the elections. Have these considerations ended?

[Al-Majali] Of course, there was a great deal of talk about the issue of elections, particularly when the Palestinian-Israeli agreement spoke about the possible return of

800,000 displaced people and the formation of committees to study their return. One of the topics discussed among the people was that those people should have a chance to return and to vote there, therefore, they must not vote here. This is what the people say. We also say, however, that the Jordanians, who carry Jordanian passports and who are registered to vote from any origin, have the right to vote. If those people return to their homeland after the elections, the matter is up to them and the other [Palestinian] leadership to decide whether or not to vote in the other part.

[Habib] So, they must choose between voting here or there?

[Al-Majali] This is not the case. It is not an issue of choice. They are present here, and they have the right to vote because they are Jordanians and are registered to vote in November. There might be elections and there might not be elections. So, why should we speak about something which has not materialized yet? The Jordanian elections are imminent, and the Jordanians who are registered to cast their vote have the right to do so. If they do not exercise this right it is their choice, and what will take place in the future will be discussed at that time.

[Habib] Jordan stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will have repercussions. How are the effects of the agreement going to be tackled?

[Al-Majali] There was fear that a big split would take place within the Palestinian ranks, and any dispute might affect Jordan, because we are one people. When imbalance or dispute takes place in one party it might affect the other party. We feared that a dispute might become violent. We clearly warned of this. We ask Almighty God that we would not see any dispute that would produce violence. We believe in dialogue, meetings, and in reasonable talks among all factions. However, the interests of the homeland and the cause should be above all personal opinions and interpretations. People should always opt for the interests of the homeland and the nation and consider it above personal interpretations.

[Habib] Important developments have taken place in the region. How do you see the future of Jordan and the region?

[Al-Majali] I am an optimistic person, and, if you remember, when I was the head of the Jordanian negotiating team I was optimistic. I was also optimistic that an important breakthrough would take place in the peace process in 1993. Peace is good for everybody. Therefore, if peace is achieved, I believe, everybody wins and everybody will live a better life.

Hammad: Elections Open to Palestinians, Jordanians

PM0410101493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Interior Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Elections Will Be Open; No Discrimination Between Jordanians and Palestinians"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has announced that the parliamentary elections will be held on the scheduled date announced earlier. He emphasized that the authorities will pay no attention to whether candidates are Jordanians or Palestinians.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday Hammad said that it is not known whether Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin are going to nominate themselves as candidates and vote in the Jordanian elections, and the same applies to the self-rule elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Jordanian interior minister said that the elections will be held in a normal manner without taking any exceptional measures with regard to the right of nomination or voting, on the grounds that all citizens who are entitled to vote are equal vis-a-vis this right, regardless of their origin. There are absolutely no ideas regarding the right of voting or nomination or whether or not this conflicts with the self-rule legislative council elections expected to be held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

Concluding his statement, he said: "No one in Jordan thinks in terms of classifying those intending to run as candidates according to their origin: Jordanian, Palestinian, and so on. They are all completely equal, and there is no discrimination between one person and another. They all—without exception—have the right of nomination or voting if they meet the conditions specified in the electoral law relating to the Jordanian House of Representatives."

Minister: Government 'Fully Prepared' for Elections

JN0310104293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Oct 93 pp 1, 21

[By 'Isam Qadamani]

[Excerpt] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has stressed that arrangements for holding parliamentary elections in the Kingdom on 8 November have now been completed.

In a telephone interview with AL-RA'Y yesterday, he said that the government is fully prepared for these elections. He emphasized the government's concern for free, honest, honorable, and fair elections.

Answering a question on the 12th round of peace talks, the minister said Jordan has not received an invitation to participate in this round. He added that the government would respond positively to such an invitation.

Informed sources told AL-RA'Y that the 12th round of peace negotiations is expected to be held on 13 October. [passage omitted]

King Discusses Palestinian Issues at Cabinet Session

JN0210190893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said: We will continue to support what the Palestinian brothers have chosen to attain their legitimate rights on their national soil.

Chairing a cabinet session today, his majesty added: We will not forfeit our right to Arab Jerusalem and our Islamic heritage in it, under any circumstances. The return of Jerusalem is an Islamic responsibility that requires joint Islamic and Christian efforts. His majesty pointed out that after the conclusion of his Washington visit, His Royal Highness Prince Hasan will pay a visit to the Vatican and meet with His Holiness Pope John Paul II to discuss this question.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the ministers about issues related to Jordanian workers and foreign manpower, compensation for Jordanians who left Kuwait in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, as well as issues related to tourism, the environment, electricity, energy, oil, higher and other kinds of education, public works, especially main roads under construction.

Within this context, his majesty gave instructions to the ministers to do all they can to provide the best services possible to citizens everywhere to create a model Jordan that serves as an oasis of stability and democracy.

Earlier, His Majesty King Husayn listened to a briefing from Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and the ministers about the progress of work at their ministries and the measures taken by the ministries to implement the royal letter of designation. The cabinet session lasted six hours without interruption.

Further on King's Remarks

JN0210215893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has said: We will continue to support what the Palestinian brothers have chosen to attain their legitimate rights on their national soil.

Chairing a cabinet session today, his majesty added: We will not forfeit our right to Arab Jerusalem and our Islamic heritage in it, under any circumstances. [passage omitted]

His majesty expressed happiness that parliamentary elections will be held as scheduled on 8 November. He stressed Jordan's adherence to a democratic approach that rests on freedom and human rights, and absolute confidence in the awareness of the Jordanian people and their determination to stick to their national unity.

His majesty added: I am fully confident that the Jordanian citizen's awareness and the fact that he bears his responsibility faithfully, bravely, and wisely will enable us to face challenges, whatever they may be. I am also fully confident that the upcoming elections will be fair and democratic. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Propose Peace Commission With Israel

NC0210132693 Paris AFP in English 1221 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Beirut, Oct 2 (AFP)—The United States has suggested the creation of a joint Lebanese-Israeli commission to discuss ways to accelerate the peace process between them, the AL-SAFIR newspaper reported Saturday [2 October].

The U.S. proposal was examined Friday in Damascus by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad, the pro-Syrian daily said.

Washington said the commission could discuss an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, security arrangements and the deployment of the Lebanese Army along the international border, the daily said.

The commission would also examine ways of stopping anti-Israeli attacks and the "integration of the Israeli-backed militia," the South Lebanon Army (SLA), into the Lebanese Army. The SLA and Israeli troops control a border strip in southern Lebanon.

These steps would "accelerate peace negotiations" between Israel and Lebanon, according to the U.S. proposal reported by AL-SAFIR.

U.S. officials outlined the proposal to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who also met U.S. President Bill Clinton on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York early this week, AL-SAFIR said.

Al-Hariri reportedly replied that he would agree to the proposal only after Israel pledged "orally and by writing" to pull its troops from southern Lebanon in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425.

AL-SAFIR, quoting U.S. diplomatic sources, said Israel would be willing to withdraw from Lebanon following a "test period" during which anti-Israeli guerrillas, mainly the Iranian-backed Hizballah, should stop their attacks.

Al-Hirawi and al-Asad discussed the Middle East peace process "and questions arising from it," according to al-Asad's spokesman Jubran Kuriyah.

It was the first meeting between the leaders of the two closely allied countries since the signing in Washington on September 13 of a PLO-Israeli autonomy accord for the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Both Beirut and Damascus, which keeps 35,000 troops in Lebanon, have criticised the accord, although neither has rejected it outright.

Buwayz on Peace Process, Resettlement of Palestinians

NC0110141493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondent of AMTV Television Network at Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Is the U.S. Administration exerting pressure on the Lebanese Government to take a different line?

[Buwayz] Actually, we cannot call it pressure. It is not pressure in the sense of pressure by one country against another. It is not a restriction. Of course, the United States is currently enthusiastic about the peace process and is in a hurry to promote the peace process. From this premise, it is exercising some sort of psychological pressure on all the parties—not only on Lebanon—to enter this process as soon as possible. U.S. President Bill Clinton was clear when he talked about a declaration of peace principles before the end of this year. He defined a time frame and schedule to achieve such a result.

[Correspondent] Regarding the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, does the Lebanese Government have a clear view about....

[Buwayz, interrupting] Of course, the Lebanese Government has a clear and explicit position, expressed by the new Lebanese Constitution. It totally rejects the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon. We believe that the Palestinian problem must not be turned into a Lebanese problem and the Palestinian problem must not be solved at the expense of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

We explained this position clearly to President Clinton. We explained all the disadvantages that could result from any settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Did President Clinton understand the danger of Palestinian settlement in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] Of course, the U.S. Administration is fully cognizant of what is happening in Lebanon, including the problem of settlement.

[Correspondent] A final question: We notice that the U.S. media always highlights Hizballah as an obstacle to a solution in the area. If a solution is suggested that includes asking Lebanon to take action against Hizballah, what will the Lebanese Government do?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese Government's position is very clear on any issue pertaining to the resistance. The government's position is that as long as there is a territory in Lebanon under occupation and as long as it does not have any guarantee that it can give to its people for the liberation of this territory, it cannot prevent anyone from resisting the occupation. Once it receives a clear and explicit Israeli commitment to withdraw fully

from southern Lebanon, it has already pledged clearly to assume responsibility for security in the area and to exercise all its authority. Then the resistance will stop being an excuse for anyone. Therefore, as long as the state does not have this guarantee, it cannot become a border guard for Israel and a protector of the Israeli occupation. When it receives such a commitment, God willing in the coming weeks, whether through certain political channels or through documents exchanged during the peace negotiations, the Lebanese state will not hesitate to exercise all its authority and responsibility in maintaining security and stability. [passage omitted]

Says Peace Near

NC0210122793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Khalil Fulayhan dispatch from Los Angeles—recorded]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Council in Los Angeles held a reception in honor of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles last night, Friday. More than 300 influential U.S. politicians and businessmen attended.

Minister Buwayz delivered a speech in English in which he spoke about the peace process, the situation in south Lebanon, and other situations now developing in the country.

He began his speech by saying that the situation in the Middle East has made peace nearer than ever before. He said: The Israelis and the Palestinians have reached the stage of mutual recognition and have started to solve their differences. The delegations participating in the bilateral Middle East peace talks are continuing their periodic meetings in Washington to find an acceptable solution.

He added: The situation in Lebanon differs somewhat from this change in the region. The achievements made in Washington last month constitute a step toward a historic settlement between the Palestinians and the Israelis. But it might delay a settlement with Lebanon. In our view, the handshake between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat is an open door to a two-way street. The first leads to a peaceful solution for Lebanon's difficult problems, especially the explosive situation in its south, and the second could be toward a violent and painful struggle between the opponents and supporters of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. Some might use Lebanon, which is an open society, for marginal battles and small wars whose aim is to avoid major conflicts and struggles in the region.

Buwayz added: The situation in the south is the detonator that might be used for that purpose.

Comments on Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC0310150693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told a dinner in Los Angeles held in his honor by the California State Council that Lebanon will not agree to less than the return of all its territories according to clear and candid conditions that will not infringe national dignity or sovereignty. He said Lebanon with all its sects, parties, and factions rejects Palestinian settlement in Lebanon and refuses to pay the price. He said Lebanon will not agree that the Palestinian problem be solved on its land.

On the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Buwayz said it may be satisfactory to the Palestinians, who are free to make their own decisions, but it is not entirely satisfactory to us, because we have seen no mention of the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland. Nor have we seen anything that reassures us—we who received many Palestinians—about the right to return, to family reunion, or to land.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus Meeting

NC0110211493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Zahlah at 2000 today at the conclusion of the Lebanese-Syrian summit with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials. The talks dealt with the peace process in the Middle East and relevant issues due to both countries' concern for continuing and advancing the peace process. Their views were identical. They also discussed bilateral issues that concern both countries. They agreed to convene the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council soon.

Israel Reportedly 'Alters' Border Fence

NC0110211593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] AFP cites security sources in Tyre as saying that Israel today completed works aimed at altering its border with Lebanon. According to the sources, an engineering unit of the Israeli army a week ago began moving the barbed wire marking the international Lebanese-Israeli borders along a 4-km stretch in the western sector of the occupied strip to a position situated 200 meters inside the occupied territories. Israeli occupation forces also planted mines behind the barbed wire, situated south of the Lebanese village of Yarin in an area 4-km long and 2-km wide.

Hizballah's Nasrallah Rejects Recognition of Israel

NC0210203393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has said Hizballah will never recognize Israel even if the entire world does. He said Israel constitutes a constant threat to the region. The issue is not one of a piece of land and who should get it, Nasrallah said. I confirm, he added, that the next period, of peace and normalization, will witness major famine, economic crises, and strife. Our peoples will understand that Israel is behind it all and they will revolt against it and against the regimes that enabled Israel to dominate the region.

The Hizballah secretary general asserted that he rejects the U.S. proposal to speed up the workings of the Lebanese-Israeli track, which the press reported today. He viewed it as a gift for Israel. He emphasized that the Islamic Resistance will continue the struggle against Israel if its withdrawal takes place in stages according to a timetable. He said: We will continue the resistance operations as long as Israel occupies an inch of Lebanese territory.

More on Nasrallah's Remarks

NC0310073993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Hizballah will not recognize Israel even if the entire world does, because it poses a constant threat to the whole region. This is a firm position that Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has reiterated. Israel, he said, is an alien entity that was imposed by force on the region and that has survived by massacre, terrorism, and deportation. He adds that what is happening now is a tactical change resulting from a change in the balance of power. Israel has replaced the policy of domination through war with domination through an economic and political onslaught in order to lay its hands on all the elements of power in the region, be they oil, water, or other riches, he noted.

The Hizballah secretary general pointed out that the coming stage of reconciliation and normalization will see major famines, economic crises, and strife. Our peoples will realize that Israel is behind all this and will revolt against it and against the regimes that enabled it to dominate the nation, he added. He stressed adherence to the resistance option against the occupation troops if they withdraw in stages according to a timetable.

Al-Sayyid Nasrallah added: We will continue the resistance operations so long as Israel occupies an inch of Lebanese territory. He reiterated his call for an unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist enemy. He rejected the U.S. proposal to speed up the workings of the Lebanese-Israeli track, which the local press has reported. He viewed it as a gift for Israel. Al-Sayyid Nasrallah warned the government against falling into the trap of the Zionist offer to withdraw from Jazzin as a first stage. He added: We want the Lebanese state to deal with this offer as an Israeli trap that seeks to drive a wedge between it and the resistance. He added: The Lebanese authority must put agent [South Lebanese Army commander] Antoine Lahd and his elements to trial for high treason and commend the resistance fighters. He said the U.S. and Zionist call to disarm Hizballah is not a cause for worry. He added: It is true that it is a delicate and sensitive time, but we are not an organization in the traditional sense of the word. We are a popular and massive movement that cannot be uprooted easily, despite all the conspiracies being concocted in the major decision-making capitals.

The Hizballah secretary general has pointed out that the upcoming battle, the battle for normalization, is much tougher than the military battle and will require greater efforts and capabilities. As we have been the vanguards of resistance, we will also be the vanguards of the confrontation against normalization, he added.

Hizballah Criticizes Government, Peace Talks

NC0410101093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Concerning the recent developments in Lebanon and the region, Hizballah has issued the following statement:

Following the treasonous Gaza-Jericho deal, dangerous developments are becoming a familiar, or less peculiar, feature of the regional landscape. An American peace is looming as a hectic race to resolve the regional conflict gets underway.

As the peace talks are thrown into high gear, the Zionist occupation forces are carving off more areas of the Lebanese south and moving the barbed wire fence [northward] without anyone as much as lifting a finger in protest or filing a complaint with the UN Security Council. On the contrary, we hear some Lebanese officials talking about improved prospects for an early agreement with the enemy, complete with U.S. guarantees.

The Hizballah statement stresses a number of points:

First, any agreement with the enemy based on promises and guarantees will only weaken Lebanon's right to liberate its land. The Lebanese people should not surrender this right in exchange for dubious promises.

Second, no Lebanese authority has the right to make commitments to the enemy either before or after the occupation. Any pledges made in this regard will merely constitute a revised version of the 17 May [1982 Lebanese-Israeli] agreement.

Third, the consultations and meetings held by some Lebanese officials in New York and the optimistic statements these officials make are merely a smokescreen to conceal certain commitments or pledges that we fear those officials have made.

Fourth and last, the pain and suffering of the Lebanese, most recently caused by a bloody crime authorized by the political leadership and the government, cannot be forgotten in the barrage of statements about successful consultations and laudable speeches. Lebanese suffering cannot be placated except by the departure of this government and the adoption of policies that are more reassuring for Lebanon and its people.

Amal Claims Responsibility for Clash in South

NC0310070493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Our correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that a clash occurred between the resistance and the

Israeli forces in the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah area at 0245 today. Immediately afterward, the Israeli forces shelled the area.

The Amal movement claimed responsibility for the operation. In a statement, it said that the operation took place on the anniversary of the martyr leaders Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Subayti. The statement added that the Martyr Hasan Husayn Murawwah group used machine guns and rockets to attack a forward post in the 'Alman-al-Shumayariyah. Immediately afterward, the Israeli artillery began shelling the region. At the same time, a second Amal group shelled a machine-gun emplacement in the same area, scoring direct hits.

The statement concluded by saying that the Amal movement pledges to continue the course of the martyr leaders until the elimination of the Israeli occupation in the south.

Our correspondent also reports that a rocket was fired on the 'Ali al-Tahir position at 2130 yesterday. Following that, the Israeli forces raked the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa with machine guns, wounding two women.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC0310144693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Israel escalated things by shelling several southern areas this morning and afternoon. Since 1355, the outskirts of the townships of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, the Nahr al-Litani river basin, and Mazra'at al-Hamra' have been coming under mortar and tank fire from the Israeli occupation troop positions on the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah hills. This is being coupled with raking operations with large-caliber machine guns.

Security sources say the Resistance men attacked an occupation patrol along the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road with machine guns and rockets at 1330 today. The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the operation and promised to issue a detailed statement.

Al-Asad Interviewed on PLO-Israeli Accord

JN0210210293 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Interview with President Hafiz al-Asad by Public Broadcasting System correspondent Charlayne Hunter-Gault in Damascus; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Question: I thank you for granting the interview. I'll begin by asking you about the PLO-Israel accord. Your criticisms of the deal, over the past few days, have grown more vociferous, if I am reading the situation accurately. Would you explain why this is so?

President: You're welcome. The PLO was the Arab party pressing most for coordination among Arab parties. We have also stood for coordination, because we thought intra-Arab coordination could propel the peace process forward toward its objectives and firm up the steps leading in that direction. So, meetings to coordinate Arab moves were held between the bilateral rounds. The foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the peace process used to meet to assess the previous round and devise tactics that might advance the peace process in the next round. In addition, the Arab delegations that held talks with the Israeli teams in Washington used to meet every week or so to compare notes. Each party, then, had a picture of how and what the others were doing. Thus, the Arabs moved in tandem toward a common objective. All of a sudden, we hear that a secret agreement was reached between some PLO members and Israel. It turns out that the agreement was worked out in many months of secret negotiations, when, meanwhile, Arab states were meeting at the levels I have noted. The Palestinian side was engaged in talks with Israel, without the coordination it had pressed for. To my mind, this is not their best option, nor the best route to the establishment of peace. Yet, we decided not to obstruct the agreement. We said this is up to the Palestinian people and their organizations. However, no one should expect us to wax enthusiastic over a secret agreement concluded behind our backs.

Question: Do you think 'Arafat may face consequences or pay a price for this agreement? What do you think will result if he does not?

President: You mean consequences that 'Arafat may personally bear?

Question: Both personally or on the Palestine question.

President: In fact, it is difficult to give a decisive answer. But, it is also natural for us not to be surprised to see that dealing with such major issues has good and bad consequences. In all cases, if the agreement is not good for the majority, there is nothing good in it. Still, what is the justification for the unilateral decision that has been taken? We are all together. We all participated in the preliminary talks that laid the foundations of the Madrid conference. But, suddenly one party began following a separate path. As we have always done, we will continue to urge and hope that the Palestinian Arab people regain their legitimate rights.

Question: You said earlier you will not obstruct this agreement. Now, you emphasize you are not obstructing this agreement, but you also said you will not obstruct Palestinian factions that oppose the agreement. Does this give a green light to the radical factions that oppose the agreement? In your opinion, what is the message you addressed to these factions? If they resort to violence, will you stop them, too?

President: I said we decided not to obstruct the agreement. I did not say we will obstruct those who oppose it. We will not obstruct it, although we are not satisfied with it, especially since it deviates from the consensus. But, you probably wanted to ask about the Palestinian opposition and what my position is on this opposition?

Question: That is a good question, and it was my next question.

President: It is not our specialty, responsibility, or right to repress those who oppose this agreement or those who oppose anything else.

Question: But will you encourage those who oppose it?

President: I said we will not obstruct it. In many cases, this opposition—which some voices in Israel say is present in Syria, arguing that Syria should silence it—has taken positions that conflict with the Syrian path. Furthermore, this opposition you ask about is against the peace process in which Syria takes part. Those who oppose write and declare this position. Still, we did not stop them. They differed with us on several issues, such as Lebanon and the Gulf war, and we did not stop them. I say that if this is what is demanded from Syria, then why doesn't the Israeli Government silence the Israeli opposition? There are several parties in Israel who oppose it strongly and forcefully.

Question: But the agreement has passed the Knesset?

President: And yet, some parties, especially the main opposition Likud bloc, said that if they were returned to power, they would revoke the accord. Rabin and Peres have failed to assuage the opposition. So why should Syria be expected to root for an agreement it is not too thrilled about? Even if Syria rejoiced at the agreement, it has no right, and will not be a policeman, to keep others from voicing their opinions and struggling for their cause, especially one for which they have been striving for many decades.

Question: What do you think other Arabs involved in various aspects of the talks with the Israelis should do at this stage?

President: We must carry on with the peace process that began in Madrid.

Question: You have much influence in Lebanon; will you encourage Lebanon to strike a deal with Israel now?

President: We have agreed to work together.

Question: Do you think Lebanon must wait so all Arab participants work together, and not do a deal before everyone else is ready?

President: First, the road is not open for each party to do a deal. I mean, the road is not being opened by the Israelis. Nor is it open to us by our peoples. In fact, Arabs are one people. If I struck the deal 'Arafat did, I would come up against many real problems. This has nothing to do with how the masses feel about 'Arafat or me. If I were to conclude such a deal, the Syrian people would conclude I had compromised my cause and abandoned the cause of another Arab people. The same holds true for Lebanon, a fact that may be lost on many foreign powers. You know, there are those who paid with their lives for individual actions the masses perceived as not being in their best interests. I don't want to lead you to think I have just one individual in mind, but more than one.

Question: Do you mean to say that 'Arafat may come to pay such a price?

President: 'Arafat and I and every Arab know that the masses will conduct themselves according to their perception of their leaders. This is not to be interpreted as encouragement on my part for such a course of action; nor do I see it as a solution; if anything, it will further complicate matters. This is my personal opinion.

Question: Are you referring to the eventuality of 'Arafat's assassination?

President: No, I mean assassinations in general, and not 'Arafat himself.

Question: You mean the leaders who conclude deals?

President: Yes, I do not stand for assassinations. I am confident of myself and my people. I am confident that I enjoy massive popular confidence in our country, and yet, if I did something the Syrian masses interpreted as being contrary to their aspirations, I might pay the price as others did.

Question: Rabin has said Syria is not a priority issue for Israel at present, and that what is a priority is the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, and that agreement with Syria could take place later, after six or eight months. Do you believe such a period is sufficient to prepare the Syrian people to tackle the Syrian-Israeli issue and have them accept an agreement, or progress, in the issue of peace with Israel?

President: This logic is an evasion of peace and a deviation from the Madrid fundamentals. Nothing in the basis of peace says there are priorities. Arabs are not standing in line, waiting for a decision from Rabin. Israel set up several delegations so each of these delegations can talk to an Arab country delegation at the same time. This is how the rounds of talks were held. This new logic we hear confirms the Israelis do not want peace. That's why all the others must understand that we want peace, but that we will not beg for it. If the others do not want peace, then we will have the same position, too.

Question: What evidence do you have, what makes you say Israel does not want peace?

President: What they say makes us believe so. Now, they are speaking about a priority. However, there are no priorities. The priority is for the peace process. The Arabs and the Israelis entered the peace process. There is no ground for the Israelis to say this country today, another country tomorrow, and a third and fourth country after tomorrow. The peace process proceeds in all directions. Their logic is the logic of war, not of peace. This is because history shows that countries that committed aggression against others tried to avoid waging war on several fronts. But, when they entered a peace process it was completely the opposite.

Question: If you believe the Israelis are behaving in this manner, what about Rabin's accusation that you extend a hand toward peace while opening fire with the other?

President: Where are the shots we fire?

Question: The words, the fiery words.

President: They have not been exactly blameless themselves. There is something else, too. Have we attained peace? We are still enemies. Israel still occupies our land, disperses hundreds of thousands and millions of Arab citizens. We started the peace process, but we have not attained peace. Rabin could say what he is saying now if we had attained peace.

Question: What will Syria do now? Will Syria pursue the peace process in spite of what has taken place between Israel and the PLO?

President: Yes, we will pursue the peace process, if we find others are enthusiastic about the peace process. However, we will not run after the peace process if the others do not run at the same speed.

Question: What produces enthusiasm, in your view?

President: Experience. Delegations from our states are negotiating in Washington. Of course, there are rounds, and there are interruptions between each round. If these rounds make progress, we will continue the peace process. Enthusiasm will appear if progress is made. Here, I would like to say that the United States is committed to pushing the peace process forward.

Question: Has President Clinton told you that?

President: Yes. President Clinton and Secretary Christopher confirmed this, and we read it in their statements.

Question: Will you meet President Clinton? Some people say you will meet him somewhere?

President: In fact, this matter was not discussed.

Question: How large is the present gap between your position and the Israeli position?

President: In fact, the two positions have never come close enough to each other to say that they have been separated. We have entered the peace process on certain bases and certain hopes, but matters have not developed.

Question: Don't you have a declaration of principles on the table?

President: We submitted a principles paper early, which the Americans considered a great beginning and a historic paper. They praised it much because it, in fact, includes a number of principles, which, if we agree upon them, will open the way to peace. This paper deals with the outlines of withdrawal, security, and peace. The Israelis also said it was very important. Later, they said it needed more details. We added them, especially those relating to the provision, upon which both sides could not reach agreement, namely, total withdrawal in return for total peace. They said then that they wanted other details. This line has been clear since the beginning of the peace process. They do not offer anything, but ask for things.

Question: President Mubarak talked about a compromise under which Israel will withdraw from the Golan within four months. Syria will recognize Israel, establish relations and open borders with it. Is that a concession you can coexist with?

President: The problem is that these matters should be discussed. The peace process contains many elements, which should be dealt with as a whole. When we discuss these elements, we can make a sound evaluation and we can both make the right decisions.

Question: But at this point, are you ready to say this compromise will satisfy you? In other words, Syria will regain its land and Israel's security needs will be met? Have you in mind any framework that meets these two matters?

President: We have repeatedly said that, many times. The Syrian delegation to the negotiations said that, and I, too, have said that in some statements. I said three elements should be dealt with, although they are classified under the title of peace. They are withdrawal, peace, and security. We should discuss all these. Each side will attain what we all agree is its right, and which will provide security and peace of mind for it. We know peace has its requirements. We do not expect to take what we believe to be our right while others do not take theirs. We also believe we should take our rights and give others their rights.

Question: Do you think this could be possible in the next few months—I mean, can you imagine a scenario in which you would shake hands with Rabin as 'Arafat did and reach a deal with him?

President: It is difficult to predict such possibilities, especially when the cards are shuffled as we see now. Expectations of any possibility would have been better before these new circumstances were created.

Question: What went through your mind when you saw 'Arafat shaking hands with Rabin?

President: Of course, I said he did a disservice to himself and the parties with which, and under whose shadow, he marched for a long time. But despite that, we have been saying since then that we will not support or oppose.

Question: Did you feel the earth trembling when you saw 'Arafat and Rabin, who were enemies for 40 years, shaking hands? Did you feel pain when you saw that, or did you say that you feel there is a prospect?

President: No, we did not feel the earth tremble. I did not consider it a significant event. Nor do I think it will have great effects, either negative or positive, especially since 'Arafat has been saying for some time that he wants to meet with Rabin, or anyone else, and with Shamir before Rabin.

Question: Can you predict a time when Syria recognizes Israel and its right to exist?

President: After withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Question: Then withdrawal must come first. After withdrawal, will you support the ending of the Arab boycott of Israel?

President: We think all elements, particularly those we call the fruits of peace, must all be linked to peace. No one should expect to reap the fruits of peace while there is no peace.

Question: So, until a comprehensive peace is achieved with all Arab states, you will not agree to end the boycott of Israel?

President: Of course. The Israelis know this very well, because the boycott came into effect because of the wars, and the occupations that resulted from these wars. As long as this occupation remains, its results, including the boycott, must remain. I heard some statements by Israelis, including Peres while he was at the United Nations. In his statements, both in the UN General Assembly and to the press, he says, effectively: Why are you Arabs boycotting us? You have been saying the Palestine question is the core of the conflict. Here we are now, we have reached an agreement. It seems to me he is either insulting the intelligence of the others, specifically the Arabs, or he wants to fill the occasion, or the paper he is reading, with any words. Of course, we have said, and we still say, that the Palestine question is the core of the conflict. It is the core of the conflict in that it was the starting point of hostility. Hence, we called it the core of the conflict, but it is not the conflict. The Palestine question is the core of the conflict, but it is not the conflict. The Israelis know they have fought states. All

the wars that were fought between Arabs and Israel were wars with states bordering Palestine. As a result of these wars, the core of the conflict that started in Palestine expanded to mean that every occupied Arab territory has become the core of the conflict.

Question: For this reason, you say that without a comprehensive peace there will be no peace for Israel?

President: Not at all, not at all. For, how can I distinguish between or think Lebanese territory is better than Palestinian territory, or that Palestinian territory is better than Syrian territory? All Arab territory is entangled. There is no preference here.

Question: What do you think is the biggest obstacle to comprehensive peace?

President: Israel's unseriousness. Here, I am not speaking from feelings of hostility or something else, but from reality.

Question: How can this obstacle be removed?

President: There are contacts and dialogues with the Americans, the Russians, and European nations. Dialogues are also held by these parties with the Israelis, as they tell us, or as we expect. The peace rounds should be made more effective so we can take large strides on the road of peace and give the peace process enough seriousness. We are for making efforts to overcome obstacles.

Question: You have said that you truly want peace.

President: Certainly. Definitely.

Question: What role do you think the United States can play? What do you want from the United States?

President: This issue was discussed extensively prior to the peace process, during the process, and up until now. The peace process started on the basis of the U.S. initiative which, in turn, was based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Question: And on the the land-for-peace principle?

President: Yes. It was on this basis that we accepted the start of the peace process. The United States affirmed its commitment during President Bush's term. It reaffirmed this commitment under the Clinton administration. Through our contacts with the Americans at the government level, we are convinced the United States will do what is possible for the peace process. We have no reason to doubt what they say.

Question: Have you discussed with the United States removing Syria from the list of states sponsoring terrorism?

President: The question was discussed at some point with the previous administration, on its own initiative. We did not complete the discussion.

Question: Is there anything you would like to see happen?

President: We do not think these things are part of the peace process. They are linked to bilateral relations. The contacts on bilateral relations are in good shape these days.

Question: Do you think the name of Syria can be removed from the list of terrorist states? Did it deserve this?

President: I think if Syria indeed practices terrorism, then its name must remain on the terrorist list. However, they know this is not the case. At some time, I asked a high-level U.S. delegation—I do not want to mention names—I told them: You often speak about terrorism. Give us one incident of terrorism undertaken by Syria. They had no answer.

Question: Concerning this point, Israel claims Syria harbors, supports, and encourages 10 terrorist organizations in Syria. There is a general understanding in the West that Syria gives refuge to these organizations for purely Syrian reasons. What do you have to say to this criticism, and how do you believe it could be changed, if not true?

President: I believe those who let their minds work a little bit and those who are conversant with what takes place in the region will not be confused. But, many mix terrorism and legitimate struggle, which mankind has exercised since time immemorial. Some intentionally mix it up, very well aware of what they are doing, while others do so unintentionally and unconsciously. We proposed that terrorism should be defined in 1985 and said that agreement should be reached worldwide on the definition of terrorism. A terrorist is a criminal who kills for the sake of stealing, plundering, blackmailing and in a general manner, for evil personal reasons. What we are discussing is a struggle against occupiers. If the description of terrorism applies to us for these reasons, then the peoples in the world are all terrorists because the peoples in the world throughout history were colonized. Every people that was colonized struggled with all means to expel colonialism and liberate their land. The United States carried out such a struggle. I said this to more than one U.S. official, more than once.

In the Arab countries, we have carried out such a struggle. We had colonizers. Should we have surrendered to them? We fought these colonizers with the means that were available to us. We killed as many of them as we could. They killed more of us. We are dutybound to fight the occupier because we want to live as free men in our country.

Question: Then, you still consider violence against what you believe is injustice as a legitimate political weapon?

President: Against colonialism, against the colonization of homelands. The French colonized our country and remained for 25 years. Revolutions continued against them in the countryside and in cities. As I said, they killed more Syrians than the Syrians killed French.

However, in spite of this they left at the end, because when they find that their presence in any country is no longer beneficial, colonialists leave. They did not come to colonize and lose. This is legitimate violence and a duty. This is the violence that international law, the UN charter, and divine laws have acknowledged. Almighty God has legitimized this struggle in the holy books.

Question: Mr. President, you spoke of the need to prepare the people for certain things. What period do you expect you need to prepare yourself and your people, after you have fought in a struggle you have waged and which has been part of your beliefs for 40 years? How much time should pass, or how much time you believe should pass, so at the end there is a peaceful coexistence between you and Israel? Do you expect this to take place in your lifetime?

President: We continuously put our people in the picture of our political moves. We constantly proclaim that we want peace and that we work for it. When we have doubts about a certain party, we say in our statements and newspapers that we have doubts about that party. What is important is that we address our people in a frank manner. This frankness puts us on the same wavelength with the people. From this premise, I can say that if we and the international community succeed in reaching an agreement that brings about a just and comprehensive peace, then our people will respond to the requirements of such a agreement.

Question: Do you not want to set a timetable for this?

President: I wish this could take place tomorrow. My assessment is that when we succeed in reaching such an agreement our people will be ready. Why? Because we and the people have the same understanding. First, we speak to the people about everything. Second, when we adopt decisions, we convene the National Progressive Front command which comprises all the parties in the country and tell it everything. We also invite all the other institutions to meet.

Question: So you are not willing now to predict when peace will be established?

President: What I have said means our people are willing to accept the peace process when they find an agreement that embodies this process. However, how can they welcome a peace that does not exist and that is not agreed upon? Had I known that our people will not respond to peace, it would not have been possible for me to proceed with the peace process. We think the existing openness helped prepare the people for the peace process, especially since we have spelled out the limits that should be achieved and the red and green lines, etc.

We listen to all views. We have parties and party congresses and organizations that also have congresses. What we do is discussed by all of these institutions. The picture might not be clear for you in the United States, but, believe me, the officials in the United States know that this is what happens in Syria. When we used to discuss many points of agreement or disagreement with Secretary Baker, we used to go back first to the parties' front to discuss things and make the appropriate decision before discussing things again with Secretary Baker. Therefore, I am assured about this matter. However, I would not entertain, even for a moment, misusing this trust, because if I do this once, credibility in its entirety will be lost.

Question: I thank you Mr. President for this unique interview.

President: Thank you very much and you are welcome.

Question: Is there anything you would like to talk about or do you feel you have said everything you want the American people to hear?

President: I can say we are satisfied with the position of the current U.S. Administration. I tell the American people that they are a great, good people, as I have felt through my meetings with many people over the years. I know this as well from many stories by Syrian citizens who go to the United States and come back or live in the United States. I would also like to say that the American people have a special responsibility toward world peace. We wish we could work with them and with all nations for the good of mankind. We all have an interest in defending the rights of nations and wiping out colonialism, racism, and injustice in the world and working to achieve freedom in our countries.

Question: Do you plan to visit the United States sometime in the future? Would you like to visit the United States?

President: In fact, this thing will be determined by the course of events.

Question: But, do you want to visit the United States?

President: If there is a practical need, then, of course, I will visit it. I know many people in the United States, and there are millions of Syrians and Arabs who live in the United States. There might come a time when we will visit the United States.

Question: We will welcome you upon your arrival there. Thank you, Mr. President.

President: Thank you very much. I wish you success.

Meeting of Jordan's Hasan, Israel's Peres Noted

JN0210080793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Washington—Yesterday, Israel and Jordan said they have agreed to set up a joint economic committee for the coordination regional development. The ASSOCIATED PRESS [AP] said that after meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordanian Crown

Prince Hasan stated their intention to work jointly on economic and environmental affairs, even before a peace agreement is reached.

AP said that the committee will also work as a vehicle for Jordan to receive some of the funds promised by some states to help implement the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

Following the Prince Hasan-Peres meeting at the White House, U.S. President Bill Clinton told journalists that a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli working group has been set up to discuss common problems among the three parties in the economic field and to work to settle them.

Following President Clinton's speech, Prince Hasan and Peres delivered speeches in which they stressed the need for continued work to achieve peace in the Middle East. Prince Hasan said that there is much be done on the ground, in every city, village, and in Jerusalem, which is a symbol of the three faiths. This is because, he said, peace cannot be made by statements made before the camera.

Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Reach 'Complete Understanding'

JN0110190693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] At 1200 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. They were later joined by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Army and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

During the meeting, which was interrupted by a working lunch hosted by his excellency the president, the talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and issues related to this process in light of the two countries' interest in seeing the peace process continue and head toward its objective, which is the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace. The two sides reached complete understanding on all the issues discussed. Moreover, the two sides discussed bilateral issues and agreed to hold a meeting for the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council soon.

Bulgarian Defense Minister Aleksandrov Pays Visit

Talas Meets With Counterpart

JN0210152593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy general commander of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister today at noon received Valentin Aleksandrov, Bulgarian defense minister and his delegation.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

Prime Minister Receives Aleksandrov

JN0210220293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] At 2000 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Mr. Valentin Aleksandrov, Bulgaria's defense minister, and his delegation. The session was attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus. The two sides talked about bilateral ties.

Aleksandrov, Delegation Depart

JN0310183893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1802 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 3 Oct (SANA)—Bulgarian Defense Minister Valentin Aleksandrov and the accompanying delegation left Damascus this evening after a two-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

India

Relief Operations in Earthquake Zone Under Way

Emergency Cabinet Meeting Held

BK0110132493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Massive relief and rescue operations have been launched on an unprecedented scale in the earthquake-devastated areas of Latur and Usmanabad districts in Maharashtra as the death toll in the tragedy has gone up to 21,000. The toll is likely to go up to 28,000. Medical teams, food supplies and earth-moving machinery have started reaching the affected remote villages. Electricity and communication lines disrupted due to the earthquake are being restored. Eight Army columns have already reached the tremor-hit areas. They have also spread to interior and rural areas. A press note issued by the Defense Ministry has said that three field ambulance units capable of functioning as temporary hospitals have been set up. A large number of tents have been placed at the disposal of the civil administration. The Indian Navy has also joined relief and rescue work. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the chief of naval staff, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, said that 10 medical teams have been sent from Bombay for relief operations in Sholapur. The Eastern Naval Command has sent 10 medical teams. Three centers have been set up for coordinating the operations.

The union cabinet has expressed grief over the massive loss of life and property in yesterday's earthquake in parts of Maharashtra. An emergency cabinet meeting presided over by the prime minister in New Delhi today reviewed the overall situation. Mr. Narasimha Rao announced another installment of 10 crore rupees from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The members of the union council of ministers have decided to donate one month's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

The prime minister will be visiting the affected areas tomorrow. Mr. Rao has appealed to the people for generous contribution to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The cabinet decided to suspend all banquets and state functions for a week in view of the tragedy. The cabinet also decided to depute a central team consisting of officers from concerned ministries for a study of rehabilitation measures. The team will also assess the further assistance needed. A special scheme for reconstruction of damaged houses with the assistance of HUDCO [Housing and Urban Development Corporation] may also be prepared.

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has contributed 15 lakh rupees for providing relief to the families affected by the earthquake. According to a press release, the chairperson of the foundation, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, has expressed her deep anguish over the tragedy. The Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] have expressed shock at the deaths following the massive earthquake. The Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, expressing his anguish over this natural calamity has called upon all the Congressmen to do their utmost to help alleviate the sufferings of the victims. The BJP spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, has said that there is a need for the whole nation to rise as one man to provide all-out help and support to the earthquake-stricken people. He wanted an all-party relief committee headed by either the chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the speaker of the Lok Sabha to be constituted to supervise relief work. Meanwhile, five mild tremors were felt in Andaman and Nicobar Islands last night. Meteorological Department in Port Blair said the quakes occurred between 1830 [1300 GMT] and 2330. No loss of life or property has been reported.

Rao Delays Tour of Area

BK0210021893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Massive relief and rescue operations are continuing on a war-footing in the quake-devastated areas of Latur and Osmanabad districts in Maharashtra. The government agencies, military, paramilitary, the police, and the civic authorities have joined hands in the operations launched on an unprecedented scale. The death toll in the tragedy has gone up to 21,000. The toll may go up to 28,000.

The prime minister has decided to postpone his scheduled visit today to the affected areas as he felt that his visit would divert the attention of the authorities engaged in the relief work. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, told Mr. Narasimha Rao that rain in the quake-hit areas has come in the way of relief and rescue operations. As more medical teams, food supplies, and other relief materials and equipment are reaching the affected, the army columns have spread to remote areas. Temporary hospitals are being set up and precautionary measures are being taken to avoid breakout of any epidemic. Food, clothing, medicines, blood, and tents are being provided to the people rendered homeless.

The state government is considering shifting and rehabilitating the survivors of the earthquake to safer places. A central team comprising officials from concerned ministries is being deputed to study rehabilitation measures. Special schemes for reconstructing the damaged houses with the assistance of the HUDCO [Housing and Urban Development Corporation] may also be prepared. Special trains are running for evacuating the marooned people. More state governments have announced relief assistance to the Maharashtra government.

Death Toll May Reach 28,000

BK0210043493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Massive relief and rescue operations are continuing on a war-footing in the quake-devastated areas of Latur and Osmanabad districts in Maharashtra. The government agencies, military, paramilitary police, civic authorities, and voluntary organizations have

joined hands in the operations launched on an unprecedented scale. The death toll in the tragedy has gone up to 21,000. The toll, it is feared, may go up to 28,000. Nine thousand bodies have been identified and 5,000 of them cremated. Special trains are running for evacuating the marooned people.

The prime minister has decided to postpone his today's visit to the affected areas after he was informed by the Maharashtra chief minister that rain has come in the way of relief and rescue operations. Mr. Narasimha Rao felt that his visit to the quake-hit areas could divert the attention of the civic authorities. [passage omitted]

The Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, visited the earthquake-affected areas in the state. He said about 3,000 houses have either collapsed or been damaged in Bijapur district. In the village Jumrani alone, 1,000 houses collapsed. The state government has announced 75 lakh rupees for the quake victims. [passage omitted]

Tremors of mild intensity were experienced last night in Latur and Solapur districts of Maharashtra and Gulbarga district in Karnataka. However, there are no reports of any loss of life and property.

A large number of offers of assistance from different countries and agencies have come in the wake of the earthquake. The prime minister has expressed his deep appreciation of this gesture of goodwill and sympathy at a time of enormous human tragedy. The government has indicated its acceptance of such offers of assistance in principle. Offers of assistance have come in from the USA, UK, Russia, Switzerland, Pakistan, and Canada.

Rao Pledges Relief for Victims

BK0210165693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1605 GMT 2 Oct 93

["Message" from Prime Minister Narasimha Rao; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: I am speaking to you today with a heavy heart. Parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka have had an unprecedented tragedy and thousands and thousands have lost their lives. Many more thousands have been injured. This has never happened in that part of the country and perhaps in any part of the country so far. It is absolutely unprecedented. The devastation is so great that even now full reports have not yet been received; they are still coming in. Meanwhile, whatever is humanly possible—by the central government, by the state governments, by the nonofficial organizations—is being done to rush relief to the people. But the tragedy is that even all the bodies have not been recovered because they have been buried under debris. The work is going on in full swing. But I am afraid it will take some more time to complete it. The Army has also been deployed and they are doing a very good job.

Nevertheless, it is the [words indistinct] were affected. We have to bear this with fortitude and calm. Let us hope and pray that they will get the strength to face the (?calamity). There is nothing more that we can do from distance. However, the work which has been taken on hand will be completed and whatever immediate relief can be given will be given without any effort being spared. This I would like to assure to those brothers and sisters there.

Friends, the task of rehabilitation of these people and the villages is going to be stupendous. So I would appeal to one and all to contribute liberally to the prime minister's relief fund so that we could take up whatever work is to be done by way of rehabilitation at the earliest, and as I said, we are not going to spare any effort whatsoever. So I send them my sympathies—condolences to the bereaved families—and I once again express my determination that in spite of the enormity of this tragedy, we will get over it, we will face it, and we will do whatever is necessary to the extent practicable to rehabilitate the affected persons in these areas.

Jai Hind! [Hail India]

Appeal for Contributions Issued

BK0310155293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Army, Navy and Air Force are continuing the largest ever peace-time relief and rehabilitation operation in the earthquake devastated Latur and Osmanabad areas in Maharashtra. The police with the help of volunteers and local people are helping them in retrieving the bodies from the debris.

As material assistance for the victims is pouring in, the state government has set up a central receiving station at Bombay to receive all the relief materials. It has requested all those who are sending relief to send their assistance to this station. The chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, who is personally supervising the operations, today visited the worst affected and remote villages in Osmanabad District. The prime minister has made a fervent appeal to the countrymen to contribute liberally to the prime minister's relief fund. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, is scheduled to visit the calamity-stricken areas tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Rao Tours Earthquake Site

BK0410084093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister has announced that the government would undertake a massive program of seismological survey in the country in view of Thursday's earthquake in Maharashtra and other states. Mr. Narasimha Rao was speaking at a press conference in Latur this afternoon after surveying the quake-affected areas. He said necessary funds will be provided to rehabilitate the affected people. Mr. Rao announced that 50,000 rupees will be paid to the next of kin of those killed in the earthquake from the prime

minister's relief fund. He said that he will be handing over 50 crore rupees check to the chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar. He also announced exemption of income tax for the donors to the relief fund. The prime minister said necessary changes in the rules to this effect will be made in due course.

Earlier, Mr. Narasimha Rao reviewed the relief and rescue measures at Umargah, (Sastur), Killari and other affected areas. Accompanied by the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the union health minister, Mr. B. Shankaranand, the prime minister arrived in Bidar in Karnataka this morning on his way to the quake hit areas in Maharashtra. The governor of Maharashtra and the chief ministers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are also accompanying Mr. Rao.

Nuclear Energy Department To Export Heavy Water

BK2909133993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 93 p 12

[By Rajendra Prabhu]

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 10—The Atomic Energy Department (DAE) is looking out for buyers abroad for its surplus heavy water.

In the late 70s and early 80s, heavy water shortage was a major constraint for the nuclear power programme of the DAE. Now the tables have been turned.

Heavy water is used as a moderator for slowing down neutrons in a natural uranium fuelled reactor. It is also used to remove the heat from the reactor to the secondary steam generator for driving the turbines. Each 235 MW reactor needs about 250 tonnes of heavy water for initial fill which is recirculated.

In the 70s the first set of heavy water plants set up with foreign help at Baroda, Tuticorin and Talcher functioned erratically and had to be closed down for long periods leading to scarcity of this moderator-cum coolant high cost liquid. In some cases like Rajasthan reactor-two and Madras Atomic Power Station-one, this affected the date of commissioning of the plants. In the first case, DAE had to import Soviet heavy water through an agreement. The second case had to wait for indigenous heavy water to be available before commissioning.

However the situation turned for the better with more heavy water plants coming up. It is significant that the later plants done completely with Indian technology, Indian design and mostly Indian equipment fabricated in our factories, worked far better than the foreign ones.

At present there are eight heavy water plants in total. Of these the one at Talcher has been totally out of commission for long. The output from the seven plants is more than what the country requires, according to DAE sources. Partly, this surplus also is because of slowing down of the nuclear power plan under which more reactors were to come up to generate in total 10,000 MW of power through the nuclear fission route by the turn of the decade.

DAE sources are reluctant to quantify the surplus but insist that it is "substantial".

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman P. Chidambaram has already contradicted the reports in the Western media that India had imported heavy water "clandestinely". It is pointed out that the only time we had to import heavy water was in the late 70s when it was obtained under an agreement registered with the International Atomic Energy Agency at Vienna. Even this was not fully utilised and for quite some years India has not been importing heavy water.

The DAE sources are not bothered about the recent United States embargo on U.S. companies exporting fertiliser plant technology to India. Heavy water plants depend upon synthesis gas and ammonia from fertiliser plants for isolating and concentrating heavy water from ordinary water. The U.S. embargo on fertiliser technology is to prevent India from obtaining heavy water through this route.

There is no great consternation in DAE over this ban because of the advanced capability India has developed by itself in heavy water production technology. In ordinary water there is a tiny percentage, (about 0.06 per cent) of heavy water. By using ammonia to pick up this heavy water and then concentrate it through repeated distillation, heavy water in sufficient concentration is obtained for nuclear power plants. The ammonia is returned to the fertiliser plant. Except two, all the six heavy water plants are attached to the fertiliser plants.

Most of the fertiliser plants are using only technology from Italy and not from the U.S. Hence the embargo may not apply to even future fertiliser plants. Besides, even in this case, there has been considerable indigenisation.

DAE has also developed and built a new route to heavy water using hydrogen sulphide. This does not require any piggy ride on fertiliser plants. The first such plant was built completely with Indian technology at Kota.

After the Kota plant, the second such plant using hydrogen sulphide route was built at Manuguru (Andhra Pradesh). The plants after some teething troubles have been working well, according to DAE.

The heavy water plants cost around Rs. [rupees] 500 crore to build and require a high degree of precision engineering. Most of the critical components are also built in India. They are one of the most complex process plants to be built and operated. Only a few countries have the complete technology from design to commissioning of the heavy water plants; and India is one of them.

DAE also plans to build one more heavy water plant, but it all depends upon more funds being sanctioned during the Eighth Plan. The heavy water plants attached to fertiliser processes are at Tuticorin, Baroda, Talcher, Thal and

Hazira. The last two are with capacity above 100 tonnes each. There is one more plant at Nangal which uses an electrolytic process but which is a small one.

In case there is no additional fertiliser plant due to U.S. embargo, the heavy water production will not suffer because the hydrogen sulphide route could be used with most of the plant built in India itself.

Jute Export Registers 146 Percent Growth

BK3009133393 Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Sep 93 p 7

[Text] Earning Rs. [rupees] 340 crore worth of forex [foreign exchange] annually and employing 40 lakh families, jute cultivation plays a crucial role in India's economy. Jute yield which was 1,602 kg/ha [kilograms per hectare] in 1990-91 increased to 2,579 kg/ha in 1992-93.

Government, therefore, accords a high priority to export of jute goods. The total export of jute goods during April-June 1993 increased to Rs. 90 crore from 37 crore in the corresponding period of last year, thereby registering a growth of 146 per cent in rupee terms and 126 per cent in dollar terms.

However, the jute scenario is not always even. The increasing trend of exports continued up to 1991-92, showed a decline in 1992-93. In fact, jute has tough competition from synthetic substitutes and the world import of jute products fell from 953 thousand MT [metric tons] in 1988 to 887 thousand MT in 1991. To boost production and exports and counter the problem of sickness in the jute industry, Government has taken various multidimensional measures.

A number of diversified products like geo-textile, carpets, paper, fabrics, apparels, blankets, soft luggage, shoe uppers, rigid, semi-rigid jute laminated packing etc have been developed and marketed both at home and abroad.

For improving the production and upgradation of the fibre quality UNDP has extended U.S. $23 million assistance. The package gives special attention to broadbasing the production in organised and decentralised sectors. In addition, under Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme so far Rs. 88.58 crore has been sanctioned for 22 mills. A new turnaround strategy for National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC) includes diversification of product-mix and modernisation for all the six mills of the Corporation to produce value-added items for the export markets.

Most of the area under jute cultivation is rain fed and therefore, the productivity depends on weather conditions. To impart stability to production and productivity Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP) is being implemented in the selected districts of jute producing states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. A total amount of Rs. 18.52 crore has been spent so far under the programme.

Government Releases 317 Kashmiri 'Militants'

BK3009160593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government today released 317 militants who had been detained in connection with militant activities. Director General of State Police Mr. B.S. Bedi handed them over to their family members at a function organized in Srinagar today. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bedi said the government has released the Kashmiri youths to give them a chance to reform themselves as their parents had given a guarantee of good conduct of their wards.

Meanwhile in Kashmir valley, the dreaded militant, Maulvi Abdul Haq, was arrested by the security forces in Srinagar today.

Envoy Accuses Pakistan of Fomenting Terrorism

BK3009100793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] India has again charged Pakistan for promoting terrorism in Kashmir. Speaking in the UN General Assembly, the Indian ambassador, Mr. M.H. Ansari, said Islamabad has been instrumental in establishing a deep nexus between terrorism and drug trafficking to make use of every available means to destabilize India's territorial integrity. Exercising the right of reply, after the Pakistani foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, spoke at the UN, Mr. Ansari said such an approach to relations with the neighboring countries is contrary to the norms of civilized behaviour. He brought out the global dimensions of Pakistani terrorism and said that India is the principal but not the only victim. He pointed out reports quoting American officials that Pakistan inspired the blasts in Bombay and New York.

New Delhi Offers $1 Million Aid for Palestinians

BK0210042693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi has offered $1 million for supplies of relief items to the Palestinian population in Gaza and Jericho during the current and next financial years. Announcing the offer, the Indian ambassador to the United States, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, said this is the first manifestation of the Indian support. Mr. Ray is the leader of the Indian delegation to the conference held at the State Department in Washington yesterday to support the West Asia peace.

Russia Expresses 'Full Support' for Simla Accord

BK0310093093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Russia has expressed full support for the Simla agreement for resolving bilateral issues between India and

Pakistan. During a meeting between the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the Russian foreign minister the two sides categorically stated that Indo-Russian friendship is unshakable. Bilateral issues, the situation in West Asia, and the problems of Central Asian Republics were also discussed during the meeting. Mr. Dinesh Singh is cutting short his visit to New York and returning home in view of Thursday's earthquake in Maharashtra.

Government Issues Statement With Bulgaria on Bosnia

BK0110161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] India and Bulgaria have reaffirmed that terrorism has no place in solving disputes among nations. In a joint statement issued in New Delhi today at the end of the two-day visit of the Bulgarian deputy foreign minister, Mr. D.K. (Ekonomov), both the countries expressed the view that any escalation of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina could spill over to other areas of the region.

Iran

Velayati, Iraq's al-Sahhaf Confer in New York

NC0210085993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati met Muhammad Sa'id al- Sahhaf, the Iraqi foreign minister, in New York last night and discussed issues related to their respective countries. According to our special correspondent to New York, during this meeting it was agreed that our deputy foreign minister will visit Iraq in the second half of the month of Mehr [23 September—22 October]. This meeting comes in the wake of recent contacts between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers during the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' session in Karachi.

It has been decided that during the upcoming visit by the Iranian deputy foreign minister to Iraq the problems that remain to be ironed out regarding Tehran-Baghdad relations will be assessed.

Dr. Velayati also met the foreign ministers of Italy, Kazakhstan, the PRC, Brazil, Libya, and the Netherlands. During these meetings, regional and international issues and bilateral relations were discussed.

Velayati Reportedly Planning Baghdad Visit

JN0310185093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni from Tehran]

[Text] Iranian Government sources have told us an Iranian Foreign Ministry envoy will go to Baghdad late next week to prepare a visit to the Iraqi capital by Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in reply to an invitation extended to him by his Iraqi counterpart Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf during a meeting on the fringes of the UN General Assembly meeting.

The sources said Mohammad Javad Zarif, deputy Iranian foreign minister for international affairs, and Iraqi officials will discuss all the outstanding bilateral issues that remain following the Iraq- Iran war, including the normalization of bilateral ties. The sources believe the meeting between Velayati and al-Sahhaf, which will come immediately on the heels of a meeting between senior aides of both countries next week, is expected to bring an immediate end to the Prisoner of War [POW] issue, particularly that surrounding Iranian POW's, which Baghdad continues to deny holding.

Well-informed sources here expect Minister Velayati will meet with President Saddam Husayn during his visit to Baghdad in an effort to turn a new leaf in Iraq-Iran relations, putting the climate of the two Gulf wars behind them. These sources, however, said complete normalization of relations between the two countries is contingent on a responsive posture from the Baghdad government to the resolution of outstanding issues, and upon its willingness to deal with its neighbors on the basis of recognized international laws and conventions.

Daily Views Upcoming Visit

LD0410114193 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA—A morning daily here Monday said the forthcoming visit of Iran's deputy foreign minister to Iraq and the outcome of his visit will demonstrate whether the Iraqis sincerely wish to improve relations or they are trying to start a new political maneuver.

In its editorial TEHRAN TIMES commented on recent talks between Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in New York during which they reached agreement for the visit, due later this month.

It said Iran had shown its good will by accepting Security Council Resolution 598 while having the capability to continue the sacred defence. "Iran did not hesitate to cooperate with relevent international organizations, and freed many POWs unilterally," it added. On the contrarary, the paper noted, Iraq refused to announce the real number of Iranian POWS in Iraq and when the number was found out it failed to announce.

"In recent years and specially after the occupation of Kuwait, Iraq has been claiming that its principal objective is to fight imperialism and the United States. But if there is any truth to this claim, then Iraq should have joined forces with Iran which is in the forefront of the fight, and with whom Iraq has common borders and interests," noted the article.

It expressed hope that the meeting between the two ministers will help improve mutual relations and start "a new period in which rational and good neighbourly conducts will gradually obliterate the painful memories of the past."

The paper concluded by suggesting that to show its good will, Iraq could open the way to the Iranian pilgrims to the holy sites in Iraq which will have great effect on improving ties as well as creating good feelings between the two nations.

Aqazadeh, Kazakh Minister Discuss Oil Cooperation

LD0310161393 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—Kazakh minister for energy and fuel resources, Kadyr K. Baykenov, here Sunday called for broadening of technical cooperation between Tehran and Almaty.

Baykenov in his meeting with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, sought Iran's assistance to set up a motor oil manufacturing plant in Kazakhstan, and help build oil platforms in his country's territorial waters in the Caspian.

He also discussed shipment of Kazakh crude to Iran for refinment and collaboration in the installment of the proposed gas pipline which is to carry turkmenistan's natural gas to Europe via Iran and Turkey.

Aqazadeh in return welcomed the idea of promoting oil cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan, and was hopeful that the two countries would sign a long-term oil cooperation agreement.

Baykenov arrived here yesterday heading a 30-man delegation.

Larijani Meets Islamic Jihad-Palestine Leader

LD0410101493 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA—A senior Iranian official here Sunday said Iran attaches great importance to Palestine-related developments and that Majles Foreign Policy Committee always follows issues of Palestine as a topic of its agenda.

Vice-Chairman of Majles Foreign Policy Commission Mohammad Javad Larijani made the remark in a meeting with the visiting secretary general of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Turning to the recent agreement between the Zionist regime and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Larijani said even the Americans were doubtful whether the accord would prove successful.

Al-Shaqaqi said that 'Arafat took the most disgraceful measure in the history of Palestinian struggles by signing such an agreement. However, he added, Muslim groups will continue the intifadah with utmost effort.

He noted that the Zionist regime assigned 'Arafat to silence the intifadah but Palestinian combatants, regardless of what had happened, would continuously target the Zionists.

U.S. Trying To 'Impose' Support for Peace Accord

LD0310161593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners:

Jordan's Prince Hasan in Washington criticized America's policy toward Iran and said that Iran's participation in the Middle East peace process is vital.

Even though those remarks explain the realities of America's hostile and blind policy toward Iran during the past one and a half decades, the raising of the issue of Iran's participation in the ongoing process of compromise in the region raises a number of questions, and those remarks undoubtedly cannot be unaffected by the Jordanian prince's meeting with the American and Israeli leaders in Washington.

Why does Europe stress the need for Iran's participation in the Middle East compromise? Why does U.S. President Clinton say that favorable grounds should be prepared for the PLO-Israeli accord? Why does the West impose that same viewpoint on any official who visits the West?

The stance of the West on the need for supporting and strengthening of the process of compromise, in the first instance shows how far the West and Israel realize the vulnerability of the artificial process of the so-called peace in the region. They know quite well that all Arab governments have yielded to that compromise which is contrary to the wishes of their nations, and that the presence of even one contrary viewpoint can create solidarity and movement in the nations of the region. That is why the West cannot accommodate any contrary viewpoint.

Secondly, since Iran has no geographical border with Palestine, and in any case the American peace conference has taken the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict out of its regional framework and has based it on two-sided negotiations and agreement, the insistence of the West on the need for a comprehensive support for the PLO's compromise with Israel means that America, with its new world order, intends to impose dictatorship on international relations and suppress any kind of opposition just like one-man dictatorships. [sentence as heard]

In other words, Western countries who see themselves as defenders of democracy, and the present time's meaning

of democracy is the rule of the majority while observing the rights of the opposition, the West is now violating its basic principles vis-a-vis the Middle East crisis and its international behavior and suppresses any kind of opposition in a repressive climate where isolation, economic and technological sanctions, and bullying and intimidation are its methods of punishment.

Jannati Friday Sermon Scores PLO 'Compromise'

Sermon Summarized

LD0110114993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Politico-religious Friday prayers were held throughout the country today. The Friday prayers in Tehran were led by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the temporary Friday prayers imam of Tehran, who in his sermons enjoined piety and referred to the events of the past week.

Referring to the ceremonies marking Holy Defense Week he praised the bravery of the fighters of Islam during the eight years of holy defense. Ayatollah Jannati emphasized that aiding the war-disabled, and the esteemed families of martyrs and those missing in action is one of the most important duties of the people and officials. He stressed the need to honor the high values those beloved ones stood for, and to preserve their goals.

The temporary Friday prayers imam of Tehran devoted another part of the second sermon to the issue of the compromise [sazesh] between the PLO and the Zionist regime, describing it as a great historic calamity [faje'e] and much more treasonous than the Camp David Accord. Contending that by resorting to such actions, the aim of world arrogance is to clear the way for greater expansionism by Israel, he said: More than 1 billion Muslims throughout the world will never overlook such a disgrace.

Referring to the divine and ever-living message of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—about the evil and domineering intentions of the usurping Israel, which is based on the noble verses of the Holy Koran, the temporary Friday prayers imam of Tehran said: World arrogance should not imagine that the issue will come to an end by signing an agreement. Not only will the Muslim Palestinian fighters heroically fight in the occupied territories against the usurpers, but the Muslims in other Islamic countries will not accept such a disgrace, and the struggle against the Zionist regime will be the constant message of the Muslims.

Full Version of Jannati Sermon

LD0110143793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1150 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Second Friday Prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 1 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Another issue is the PLO-Israeli case, which was indeed a calamity [faje'e], the depth of which I do not know if we can fathom. The future should set light on its depth, so that we find its extent. These are horrendous calamities, yet 3,000 persons gathered to cheer when the agreement was being signed and when those filthy persons shook each others' hands. The world's loudspeakers cheer them and encourage them so that the shouts of hatred toward Muslims and the deprived are not heard. It is obvious that they are planning another future, different from Gaza and Jericho. It is quite simple; this is not only a Palestinian problem. Were all those wars, the blood being spilled, becoming oppressed, and becoming homeless only for the Gaza and Jericho? That is not worth it. In the first place the issue is that Israel is a usurper and should leave these territories. [Crowds chant: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel"]

Indeed, this is a mockery. So much blood was shed and so much pain was suffered; now they have compromised over a peanut [mosalehe bar sar-e yek nokhodchi]. Is that right? Did all those 3 or 4 million people become homeless so that they meet and compromise? Have you forgotten what you said in the past? At least take your words back—you are practically taking them back.

When al-Sadat received the punishment he deserved, when that brave man of history, Khalid al-Istambuli, gave him the punishment that Islam has decided for him, was is not you who said—this same 'Arafat said then—that this was a lesson to the brave people of Palestine by the Egyptian Army. Did you not say that then? Very well, when did he [al-Sadat] sign that shameful accord? When Muslims were not as aware as they are now, and when so many Palestinians had not been killed. [passage omitted repeating theme] This same PLO said then that al-Sadat received the punishment he deserved, it was right what you said then; why are you now repeating the same treason, and even worse? Even though that treason was the basis for this treason, but it was a lesser treason than this.

Now you are committing an act of treason against entire Islam, all Muslims, all Arab countries, and the noble Arab nations. You accept such abjectness. I saw a picture when he ['Arafat] bent—as much as when one bends before God—to shake the hand of Clinton's wife, I really felt ashamed. It is very difficult to see and accept such things. You are a Muslim. [passage omitted]

If you are a Muslim you are honorable, and he who is not a Muslim and does not believe in God is abject. Would a Muslim become so abject and accept it so much as to bend before that person? And then follow with a handshake with Rabin, and the rest of those shameful acts. Those actions will have a great deal of disastrous consequences.

I do not have the time in this short sermon to explain. Let us just say that it brought many cultural, political, social, military, and security issues in its wake. What I

have seen in reports recently—you may have heard earlier but I have just heard—is that Egypt has ordered that Koran verses reproaching Jews should not be read on the radio and television. That is how far it has gone.

There were verses about it in textbooks. When they bravely stood up against Israel, of course they instilled an anti-Israeli spirit in their textbooks and used Koranic verses to encourage adolescents and youngsters. But now they have told them to delete them. Is it not shameful?

Well, you have omitted it from your radio and TV, you have deleted it from your textbooks—can you eliminate it from the Koran? Unless Israel, as she wanted to before, creates a new Koran and you propagate it, so that anti-Israeli verses are eliminated from the Koran. That is how disgraceful it is.

That cannot be done. Can 1.2 billion Muslims forgo their religion, their Koran, and those revitalising, lifegiving and glorifying verses, just because you have gone and brought about a disgrace? [passage omitted]

This is history's everlasting message, for all times, not merely for today or tomorrow. With his divine vision, our great Imam [Khomeyni] deeply grasped the dastardly, ruthless, and domineering nature of Israel. [passage omitted]

They should not think the issue is all over now that an abject person has come forward and signed a certain accord that made a number of individuals very happy. They should not think things will be resolved now that they are planning to go somewhere for a few years to prepare the ground for implementation of what has been written at great length in their accord. What is certain is that neither those beloved courageous people of the intifadah who are resisting Israel bravely in the occupied territories, nor the other enthusiastic Muslims in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Iran, and other countries will ever stand for such accords. [passage omitted]

Concerning the Russian problems, I only read again a part of the imam's message [Khomeyni's message to Gorbachev; following sentence is part of the message]: If at this juncture you only wish to undo the tangled knots of socialism and communism by taking refuge in the embrace of Western capitalism, not only will you fail to solve any of society's problems, but others will come and undo your mistakes.

No matter what Russian leaders wish to do, they should resolve their internal differences. They should beware of their enemy interfering in their affairs. This is not a trivial matter. America wishes to rule over the entire globe. All should obey her, all should completely submit to her. There will no longer be any difference between this country or that country, between Russia and another country, between Asia, Europe, and Africa. Is such a domination something the Russians can endure? Tomorrow the Americans would like to interfere in all the details of their lives, their congress, their government. Today they are supporting the dissolution of the congress; namely, a dictatorship, which probably they are calling democracy. I do not know what they wish to call it. Is there any respect left for the votes of the people when they are insisting that the congress should be dissolved!

In any case, may God save all the people of the world from the evil of the Americans. [shouts of Amen] [passage omitted]

* SALAM Questions Reality of Press Freedom

93LA0239K Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Of course, since it is still unclear why Engineer 'Abbas 'Abdi [member of the SALAM editorial council] has been arrested, one should not comment, but I ask the officials in charge to state once and for all, frankly and seriously, whether or not freedom of the press exists. Why do you say that freedom exists and then make a thousand problems for an innocent man who does not even mean to be disagreeable? As I have said, the limits and boundaries of freedom must be clearly and specifically stated rather than made in a general statement that anyone can interpret as he wishes, and then people are interrogated according to those individual interpretations. In my opinion, in this way, not only will their problems be reduced, but also those who are not hostile will not have problems. In order to clarify what I mean, I will give an example. If they say, for instance, that it is prohibited to criticize Mr. Hashemi, this would be much better than stating that weakening the regime is prohibited, and because Mr. Hashemi serves the regime, to criticize him is to weaken the regime. In my opinion, less freedom but quite clearly defined is better than more freedom which is unclear and undefined.

Western radios and the news media have widely reported the arrest of Mr. 'Abdi, and in keeping with their poisonous intentions, they engage in analysis and interpretation.

I am saying that the failure of the Judicial Branch to announce why he has been arrested as well as the way Engineer 'Abdi was arrested gives a golden opportunity to the sworn enemies to find a verification of their ill-intentioned views.

It is unfortunate that with the arrest, the irrational and uncalculated arrest, of fellow combatants and friends of the revolution we give this opportunity to the sworn enemies of both sides to become wet nurses kinder than mothers under the pretext of supporting 'Abdi.

Please do not further discredit the Judicial Branch on the international scene.

Pakistan

Sattar: Peace in Kashmir Key to Ties With India

BK0210091193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, has said a realistic approach to peace and stability between Pakistan and India requires a settlement of the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Reacting to India's offer of a dialogue, he said this point was glossed over by India. Mr. Sattar told APP in New York that Pakistan on several occasions sought to promote a bilateral dialogue with India on the Kashmir dispute, even under the Simla agreement. But, he said, India has not accepted Pakistan's proposals for such talks. The foreign minister said the UN secretary general, Mr. Butrus-Ghali, has now offered his good offices to help in resolving the Kashmir question. He said Pakistan had conveyed its acceptance of the offer. He hoped that India will also accept this offer.

Government To Round Up Illegal Indian Immigrants

BK0410100393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 4 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The government has decided to round up all illegal immigrants from India to detect RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents, it is learnt reliably.

FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] and other intelligence agencies informed that a large number of RAW agents are carrying out terrorist activities with the help of Indian illegal immigrants.

According to FIA reports, some organised gangs in India and Pakistan are running illegal businesses of fake passports, identity cards and other travelling documents. These gangs will also be rounded-up within next few days, sources said.

A fell placed source said that, under the instructions of the government, the FIA has made special arrangements in this regard. A senior FIA officer has been assigned the job. Illegal Indian immigrants will be sent back to India after a thorough investigation, sources informed.

FIA has also made strict arrangements at all airports, seaports and land routes to stop illegal immigration from India, sources further informed.

According to reports a large member of illegal Indian immigrants had managed to marry Pakistani women and they had also got Pakistani citizenship documents such as identity card, passport and domiciles through unfair means. They are living here just like Pakistani. Some of them are living in Pakistan for last 10 to 15 years and have established families here.

According to reports almost all of them have declared themselves Muslims and those who are alleged as RAW agents are also using Muslim names.

Meanwhile some foreign governments and missions including USA and Gulf countries have complained to the Pakistan government about the growing number of illegal immigrants from Pakistan, during the last few months, it has been learnt reliably.

Sources informed PAKISTAN OBSERVER Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has taken a serious note of it and he has directed the FIA officials to adopt a foolproof system to avert this practice.

Under the instruction of the Prime Minister, the FIA, in light of detected cause of corruption decided that a criminal case [word indistinct] registered straight away against official found involved in [word indistinct] clearing intending immigrants' forged documents. The cases be registered under the Emigration Ordinance 1979 and prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

The FIA director general assigned the task to curb this [word indistinct] to FIA Director, Immigration Anti-Smuggling.

The assignee has established a special cell in the FIA Headquarters, Islamabad and constituted a special team headed by a senior officer, who will raid the airport and seaports and land routes to ensure zero level immigration from Pakistan, [as published], sources further disclosed.

Party Protests 'Undeclared Ban' on Activities

BK0110105693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0913 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Karachi, Oct 1 (AFP)—A regional Pakistani party Friday threatened to boycott next week's general election in protest against what it called an undeclared ban on its activities.

The Mutahedda Qaumi Movement (MQM), considered the main political force in the urban part of Sindh province, said it would pull out of the race if the "ban" was not lifted within 18 hours.

In a statement, the party accused its splinter group MQM-Haqiqi as well as the army of "harassing" its candidates contesting the October 6-9 polls.

One MQM activist was shot dead Thursday and six others were injured in a clash after which the police took an MQM-Haqiqi activist into custody for questioning, police said.

The prevailing tension between the rival factions in their urban strongholds of Karachi and nearby Hyderabad has raised fears of an escalation of violence ahead of the polls.

In June last year, the army moved against the MQM, which has wide support among Urdu-speaking people who migrated from India after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent.

The group was formerly known as Mohajir Qaumi Movement. It's leader Altaf Hussain, who is in self-exile in London, has been accused of running torture cells in

Karachi, in cases registered after he left the country before the army crackdown.

The MQM is widely expected to put up a good performance in urban Sindh if it does not boycott the polls, with the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League being the principal contestants in rural Sindh.

Protocol With PRC, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan Signed

BK3010150493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have signed a protocol regarding the provision of an agreed draft agreement this evening in Islamabad. The agreement will be signed by the respective communication ministers under which road links will be established between the four countries and transit trade facilities will also be available to all the members. Our correspondent reports that vehicular traffic will use the Karakoram Highway route and enter China from (Sust) on the Pakistan and Khunjerab on the Chinese side. The four countries have pledged to keep their respective sections of the road and border posts open throughout the year, and if weather condition requires closure, each country will be immediately informed. Our correspondent Athar Farooq Wattoo reports that there will be no double taxation on the vehicles and traders belonging to the member countries. However toll tax will be charged by the vehicles carrying the goods for transit trade. [sentence as heard]